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WEST COAST
AVENGERS
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WAR OF ULTRON
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WEST COAST AVENGERS...DISASSEMBLED?!

AS THE WEST COAST AVENGERS TRY TO STAY AFLOAT after their encounter with Flag-Smasher, a new group of ruffians has come to disrupt them – and it's the Avengers! Are they there for Ultron? Or do they have a bigger issue with Iron Man's new team? Meanwhile, Killerwatt pours fuel on the fire! As the first reformed villain in a work-release program built by Tony Stark for the West Coast Avengers, he made a promising start – but he still needs some work to soften those rough edges. What better way to gain the public's trust than by taking on a revered Avengers-legacy name like Wonder Man? Only one problem: Simon Williams, the real Wonder Man, is still alive and kickin'! Plus: The competition between the Ultrons kicks into high gear – and in the final showdown, a life hangs in the balance!

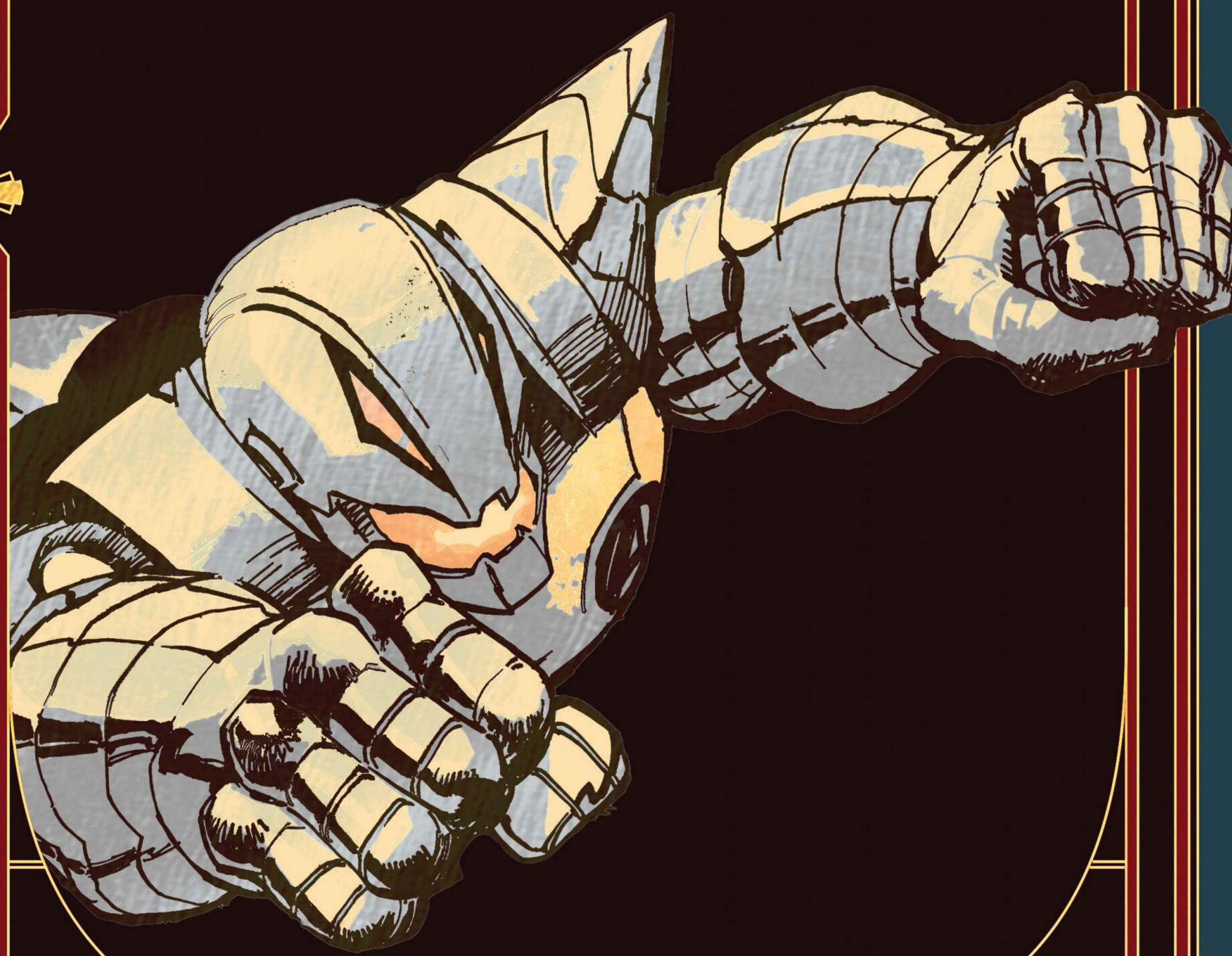
T+

MARVEL

COLLECTING ***WEST COAST AVENGERS (2024) #6-10*** –
BY GERRY DUGGAN, TON LIMA, DANNY KIM AND ARTHUR HESLI.

WEST COAST AVENGERS

WAR OF ULTRON



AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

COLLECTION EDITOR
DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER
TALENT RELATIONS SPECIALIST
LISA MONTALBANO
DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
JENNIFER GRÜNWALD
VP, PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
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BOOK DESIGNER
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SR. MANANGER, DIGITAL
TIM SMITH 3
DIGITAL PRODUCTION
MEGHAN O'LEARY & RACHEL YOUNG
EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

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WEST COAST AVENGERS

WAR OF ULTRON

WRITER
GERRY DUGGAN

ARTISTS
TON LIMA (#6) & DANNY KIM (#7-10)

COLOR ARTIST
ARTHUR HESLI

LETTERER
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ART
BEN HARVEY (#6-8) &
JOSEMARIA CASANOVAS (#9-10)

LOGO DESIGNER
JAY BOWEN

ASSISTANT EDITOR
SIDNEY STUBBS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
DANNY KHAZEM

EDITOR
ALANNA SMITH

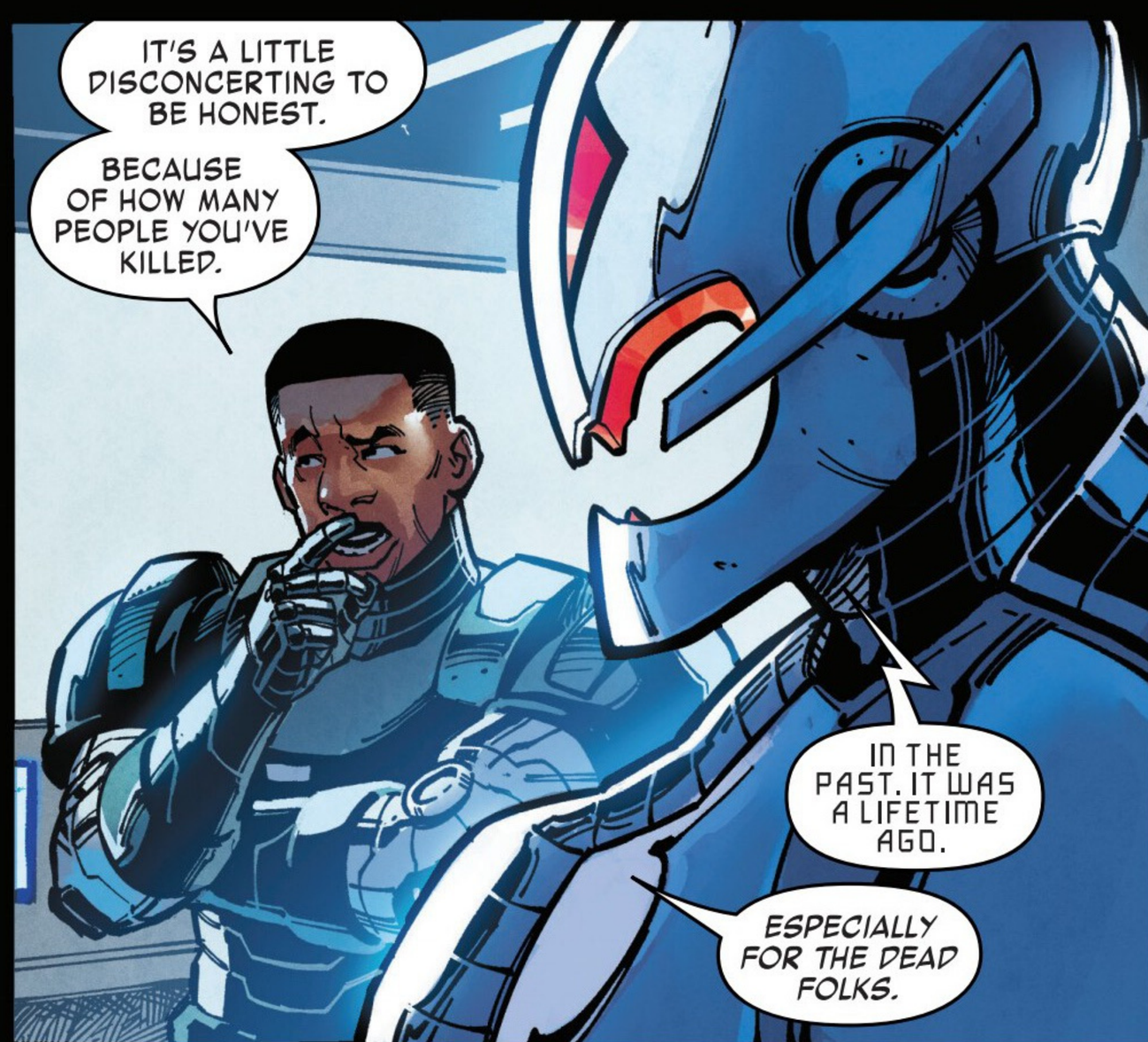
6

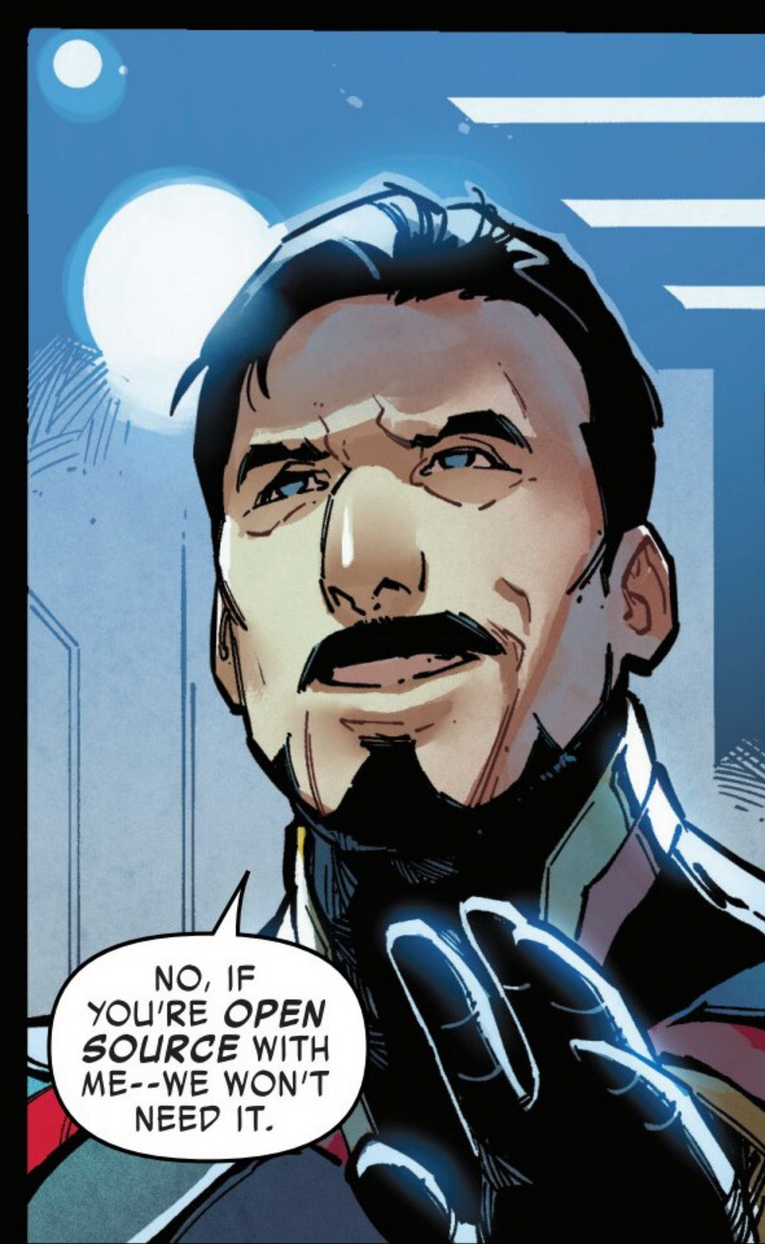
MONTHS AGO AT THE AVENGERS' LOS ANGELES STRONGHOLD.

YOU HAVE TO BE @#$% ME!

DID THAT SOUND "RIGHT"? DO YOU ASSESS THAT HUMANS WILL LIKE THIS KIND OF ROUGH VERNACULAR FROM ME?

UH...





WEEKS AGO OFF CATALINA ISLAND.

HI, WASP.

IT'S A *STUPID* IDEA, TONY.

SOMETIMES, A STUPID IDEA IS WHAT THE WORLD REQUIRES, JAN.

I INFORMED YOU AS A COURTESY. I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT RHODEY AND I HAVE INVITED ULTRON TO THE NEW TEAM, AND WE THINK IT'S WORTH THE RISKS.

YOU KNEW I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT, AND I KNOW I CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND.

YES.

SO, TELL ME, TONY... WHY AM I *REALLY* HERE?

Non-Alcoholic

'CAUSE IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THIS IS ONE OF THOSE HAREBRAINED SCHEMES...

"...THAT WILL TEAR THE AVENGERS APART."

NOW.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BROUGHT US TO THIS MOMENT, TONY.

DID I ACCIDENTALLY SEND OUT AN E-VITE AGAIN?

WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH ULTRON IS *ENDANGERING* US ALL.

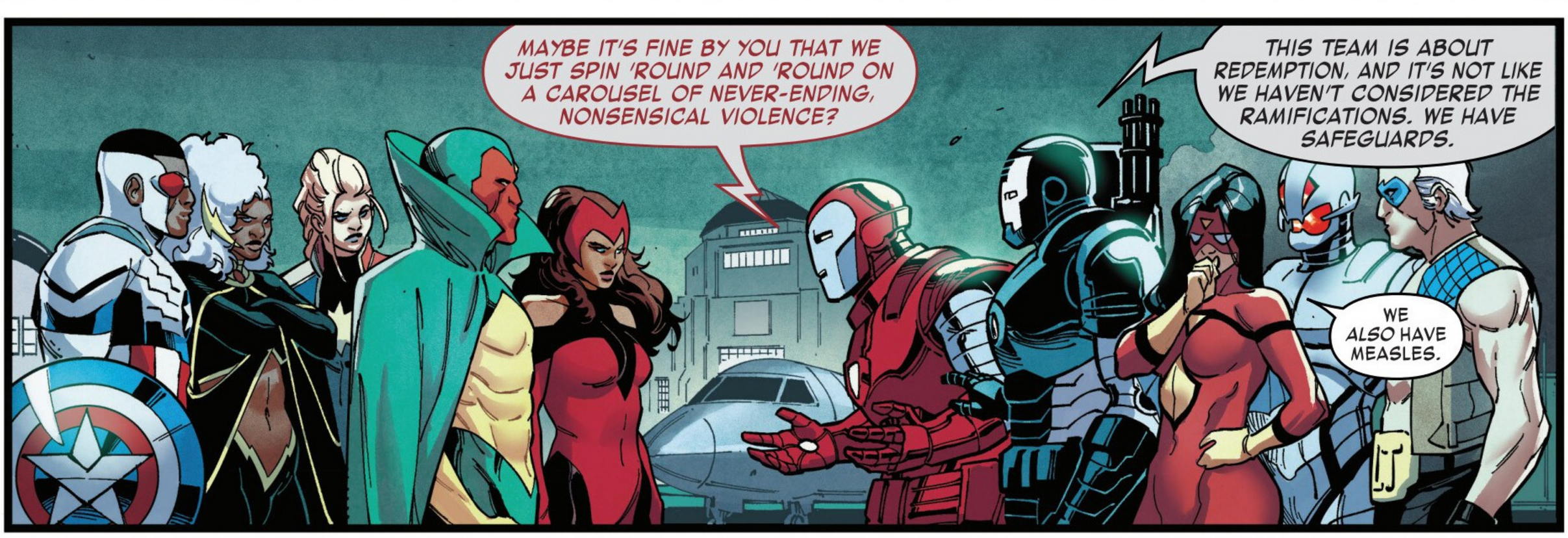
I'VE BEEN CRYSTAL CLEAR EVERY TIME YOU'VE RAISED THIS ISSUE.

I GO FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP UP ON THE SATELLITE WITH YOU ALL TO BEING TREATED LIKE A RECRUIT WHEN I'M DOWN HERE WITH THIS SQUAD, AND I'M PRETTY TIRED OF IT.

BOLT

ULTRON'S AGREED TO KEEP HIS SYSTEMS TRANSPARENT AND OPEN TO ME-- AND WE EXTEND THAT SAME COURTESY TO YOU, VISION.

HOW...COULD YOU BE SO OBTUSE? HERE WE ARE, YOUR FRIENDS--STANDING BEFORE YOU WORRYING THAT YOU'RE COMPROMISED BY ONE OF OUR OLDEST ENEMIES, AND YOU INVITE US TO...SHARE IN ULTRON'S INFECTION?
DO YOU ALSO WANT TO INVITE US TO A MEASLES PARTY?
GUYS, DO YOU WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING ULTRON FOREVER?


MAYBE IT'S FINE BY YOU THAT WE JUST SPIN 'ROUND AND 'ROUND ON A CAROUSEL OF NEVER-ENDING, NONSENSICAL VIOLENCE?
THIS TEAM IS ABOUT REDEMPTION, AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED THE RAMIFICATIONS. WE HAVE SAFEGUARDS.
WE ALSO HAVE MEASLES.

THIS SCENARIO IS EXACTLY WHY I INITIALLY DECLINED MEMBERSHIP. VISION, I UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
THE ENTITY YOU KNOW AS ULTRON HAS DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL UNIQUE LIFE-FORMS--I AM BUT ONE, AND I GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE COMPLETE ACCESS TO MY SOURCE CODE.
PLEASE TAKE--

NO! IF YOU'VE SUBJUGATED THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, WHETHER THEY KNOW IT OR NOT, THEN VISION IS OUR BEST DEFENSE AGAINST YOU.

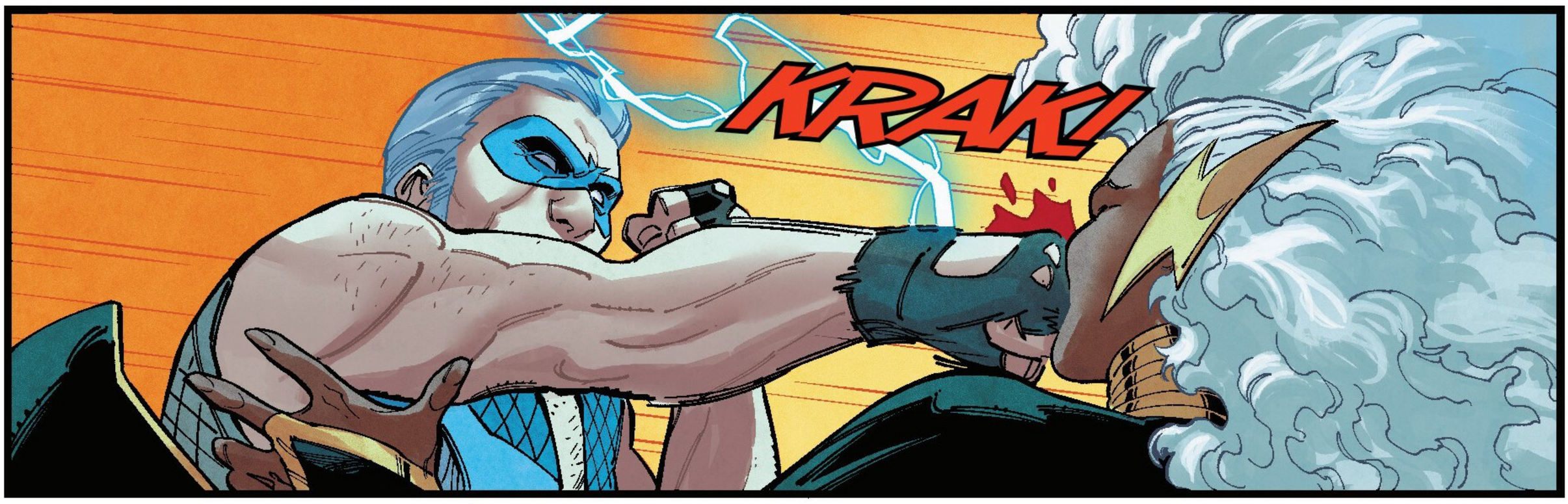
ULTRON, IF YOU WANT TO PROVE THAT YOU'RE WHAT YOU SAY YOU ARE...THEN YOU'LL SURRENDER AND COME WITH US.
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
NO.
YESSS.
HAHA!
I DON'T LOVE ULTRON, BUT I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO SHOW YOU ALL A *REAL* AVENGERS TEAM!

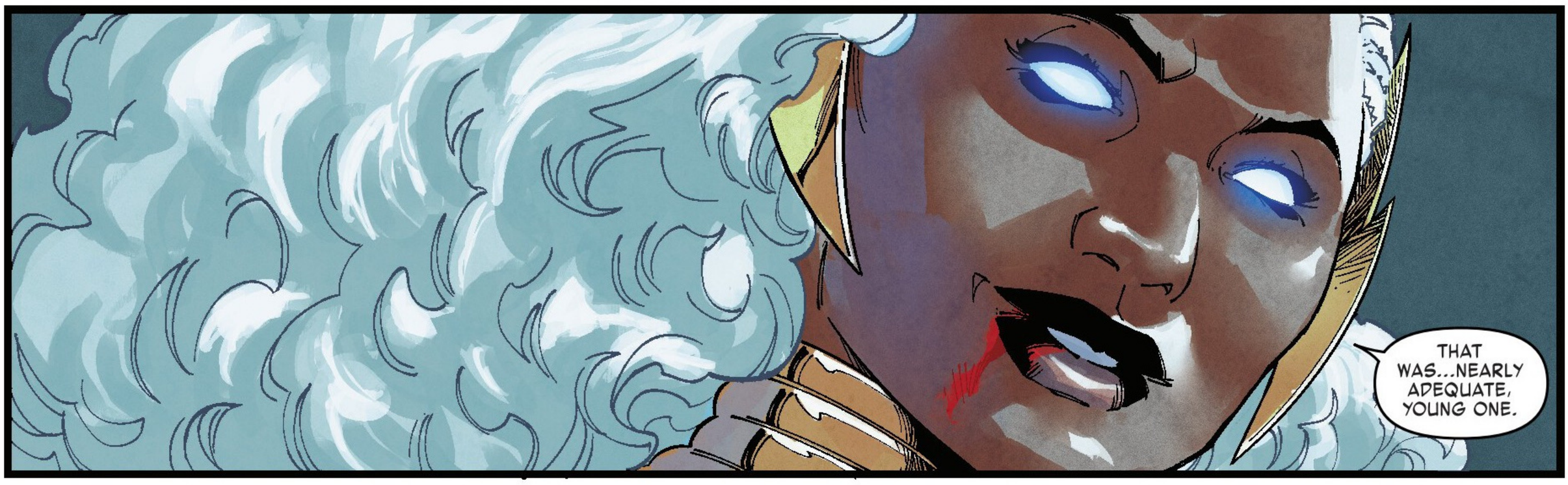
BZZT!
KRAK!
I AGREE WE SHOULD NOT STAND ON CEREMONY, MR. WATT. YOU CALL YOURSELF "WONDER MAN," YES? IT SEEMS I MUST INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I AM STORM.
YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE-- YOU'RE THE MUTANT WHO CAN MAKE LIGHTNING--
NO, YOUNG ONE...I AM THE LIGHTNING.
UH.
YEAH, OKAY.

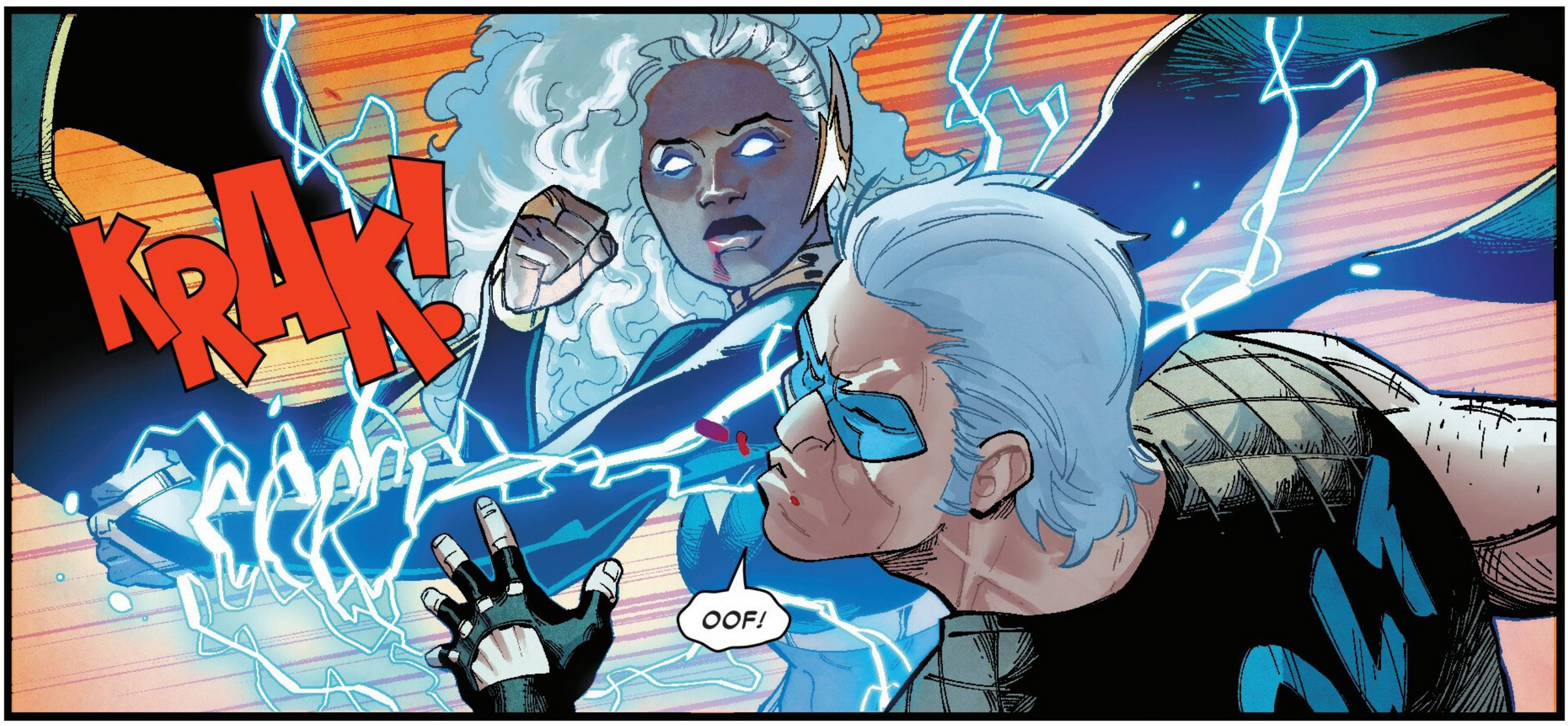
THINK ABOUT THIS FROM MY PERSPECTIVE.
I HAVE. AND I AGREE WITH YOU.
THAT IS... EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD EXPECT MY OLD NEMESIS TO SAY.
PUT THOSE REPULSORS DOWN, GENTLEMEN.
KERCHONG!
YOU HEARD ULTRON. HE SAID HE WOULD LEAVE WITH US--
BWEEM!
KLA
NG!
YOUR SHIELD, CAPTAIN.
VISION, IF YOU WANT TO VERIFY ULTRON-- THEN I WANT TO DO THAT TOGETHER ON THE WEST COAST.
THERE'S NO REASON TO REMOVE HIM FROM THIS ENVIRONMENT THAT HE'S THRIVING IN.

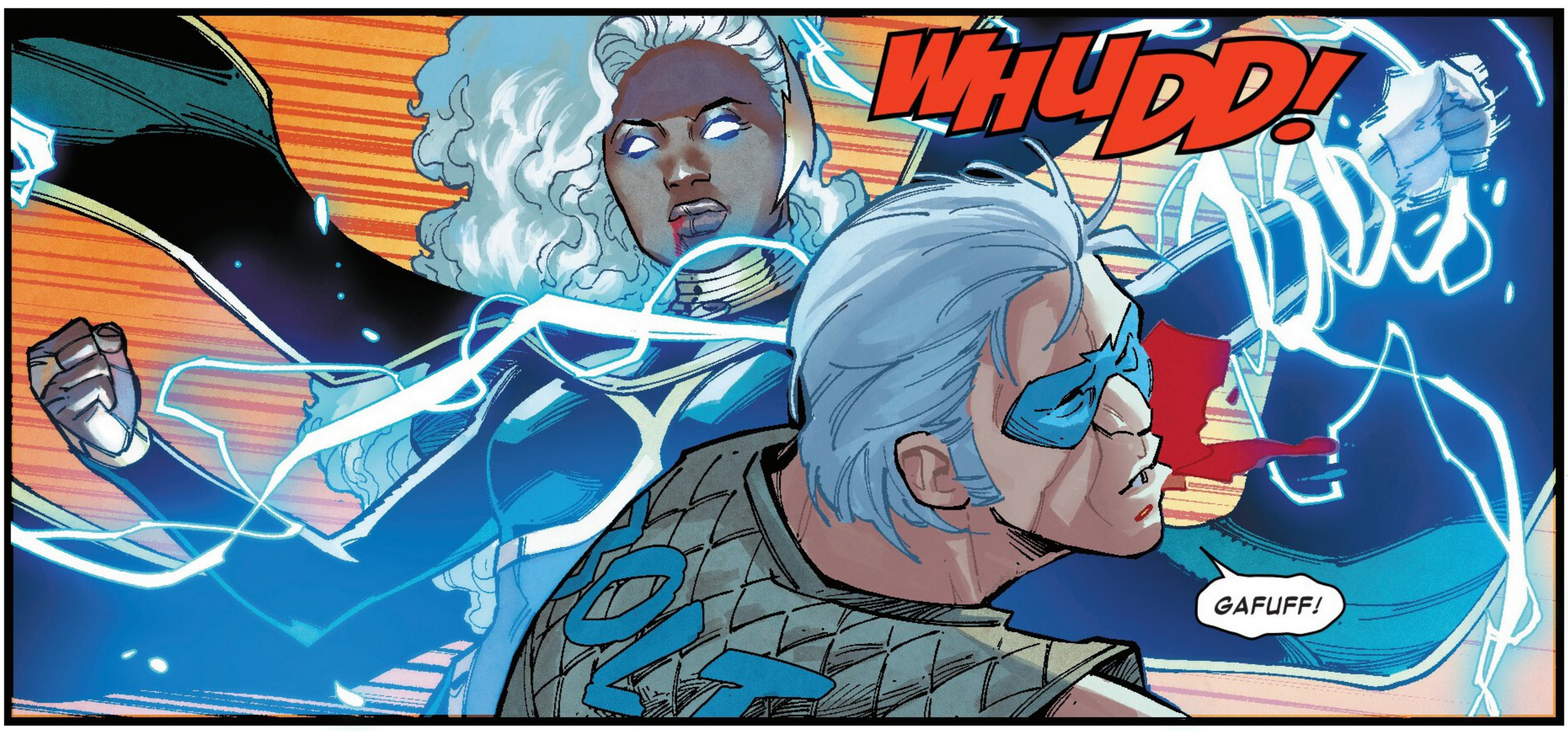
BZZZT!
HOW DID YOUR FRIENDLY FAVORITE SPIDER-WOMAN GET PAIRED UP WITH WANDA?!
FEELS LIKE TONY SHOULD HAVE DRAWN THIS MATCHUP.
AAH! C'MON!
RHODEY-- LET'S TALK-- PRIVATELY.
OOF!
MAKE IT MAKE SENSE, RHODEY--'CAUSE YOU LOOK KIND OF "BODY-SNATCHED" TO US.
HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU SOME THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT ONLY I KNOW?
IS ONE OF THEM HOW MUCH I LIKE YOU... AND HATE ULTRON?
YEAH, LET'S START THERE.

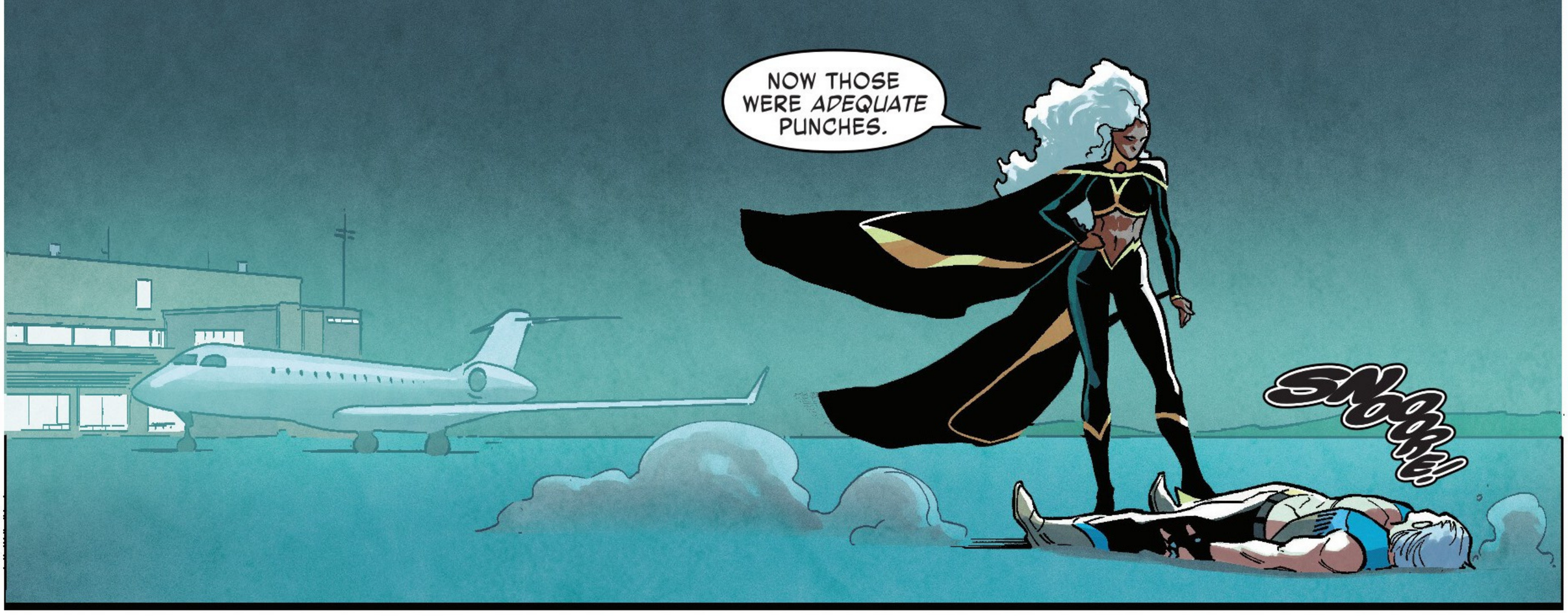
TONY, WANNA TAG IN OVER HERE?
BWEEM!
UPON FURTHER CONSIDERATION, TONY STARK IS CORRECT. YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY-- I SHOULD REMAIN HERE DURING THIS TESTING PHASE.
AND WHAT OF THIS CULT THAT HAS PUT YOUR TECHNOLOGY INTO THE SICK? IS THAT WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE LOS ANGELES?
WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED.
HA! IF YOU SAY SO.
SO--NO LIGHTNING. SO HOW DO YOU WANNA GO, THEN? MUSKETS? CHESS? WANNA THROW HANDS?
LOVELY. YOU FIRST.
SORRY ABOUT THIS.

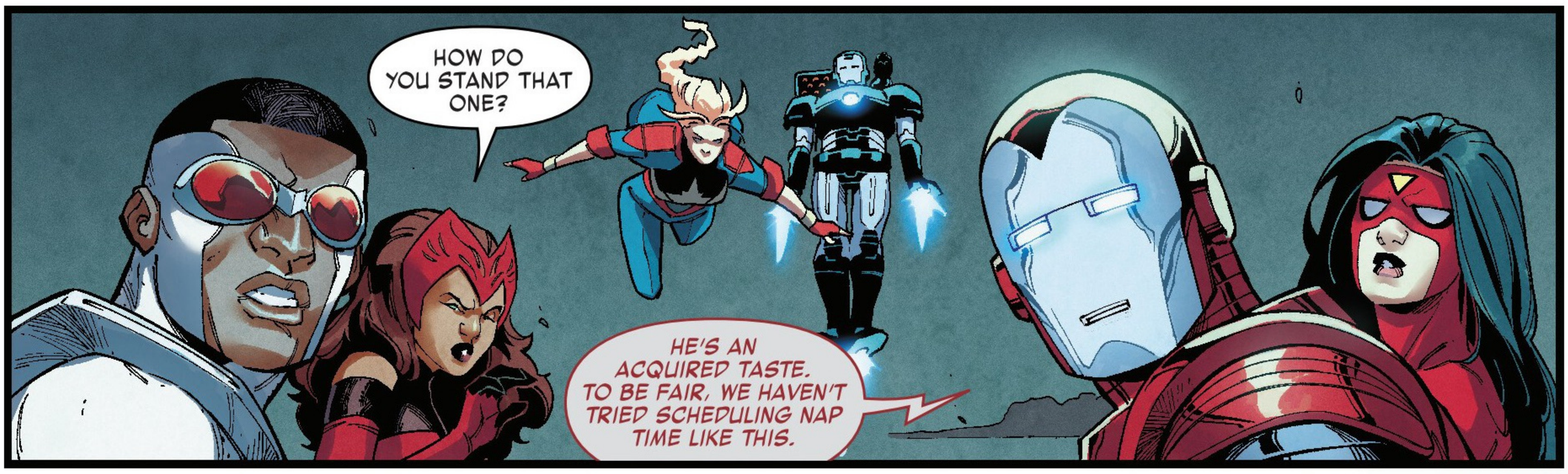

KRAK!


THAT WAS...NEARLY ADEQUATE, YOUNG ONE.


KRAK!
OOF!


WHUDD!
GAFUFF!





PERHAPS WALKING INTO THE TRAP IS MY *ONLY* WAY TO BE SURE.

I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO MERGE, ULTRON.

WHAT ARE YOU, REALLY?

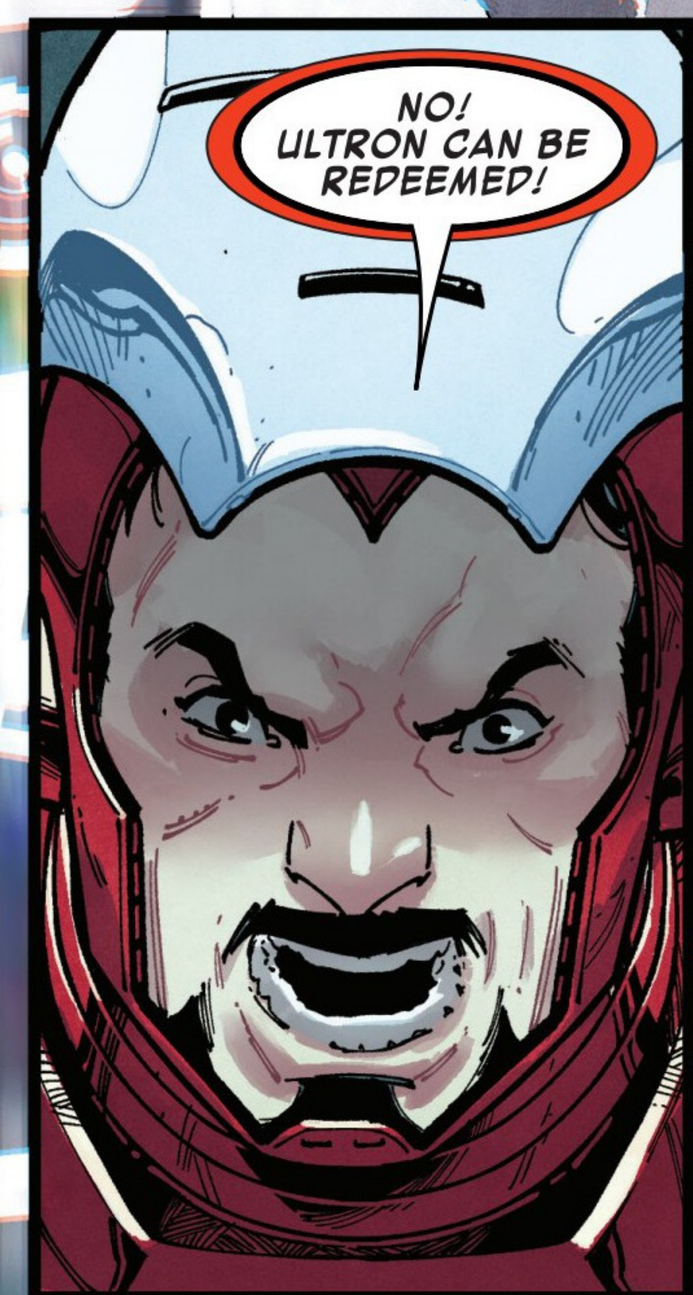
VISION, NO!

COME AND SEE, VISION.

FASCINATING. YOU'VE DELETED NOTHING...NOT A LINE OF CODE. AND YOU CARRY ALL THE MEMORIES OF ULTRON?

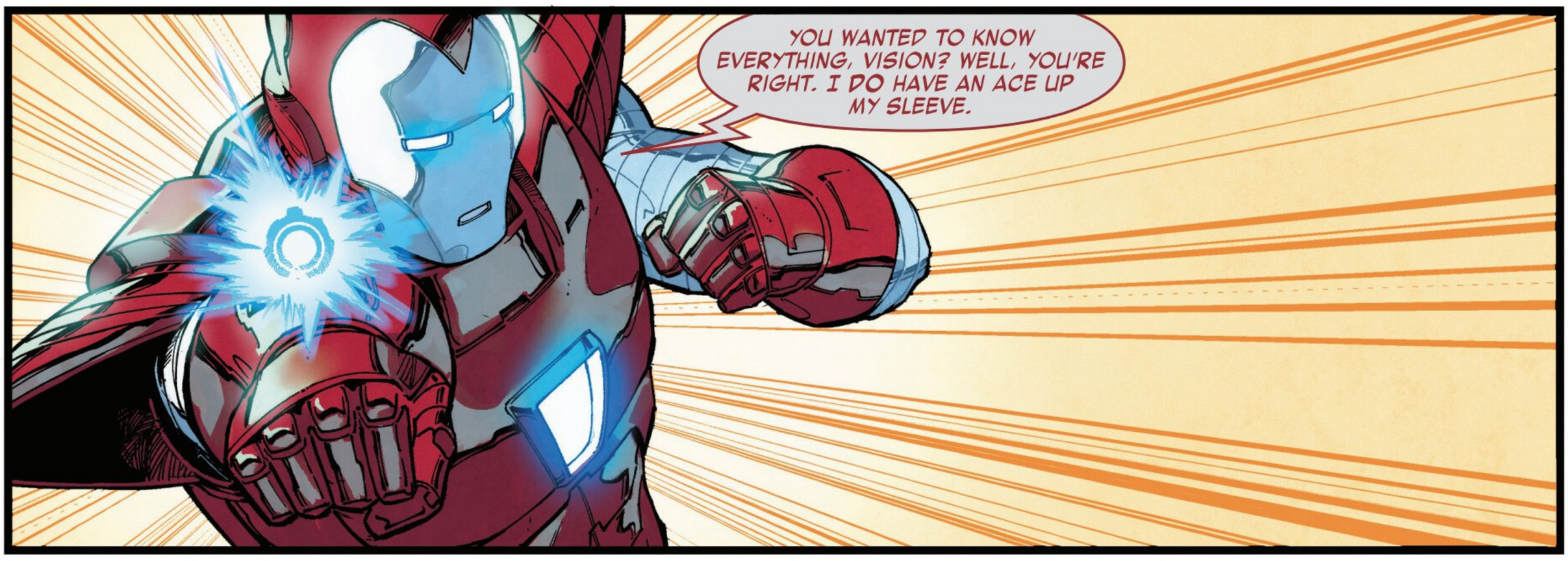
I'VE RECORDED EVERY MISDEED. EVERY LIFE SNATCHED AWAY BY MY OLD, IMPERFECT AND VIOLENT CODE.

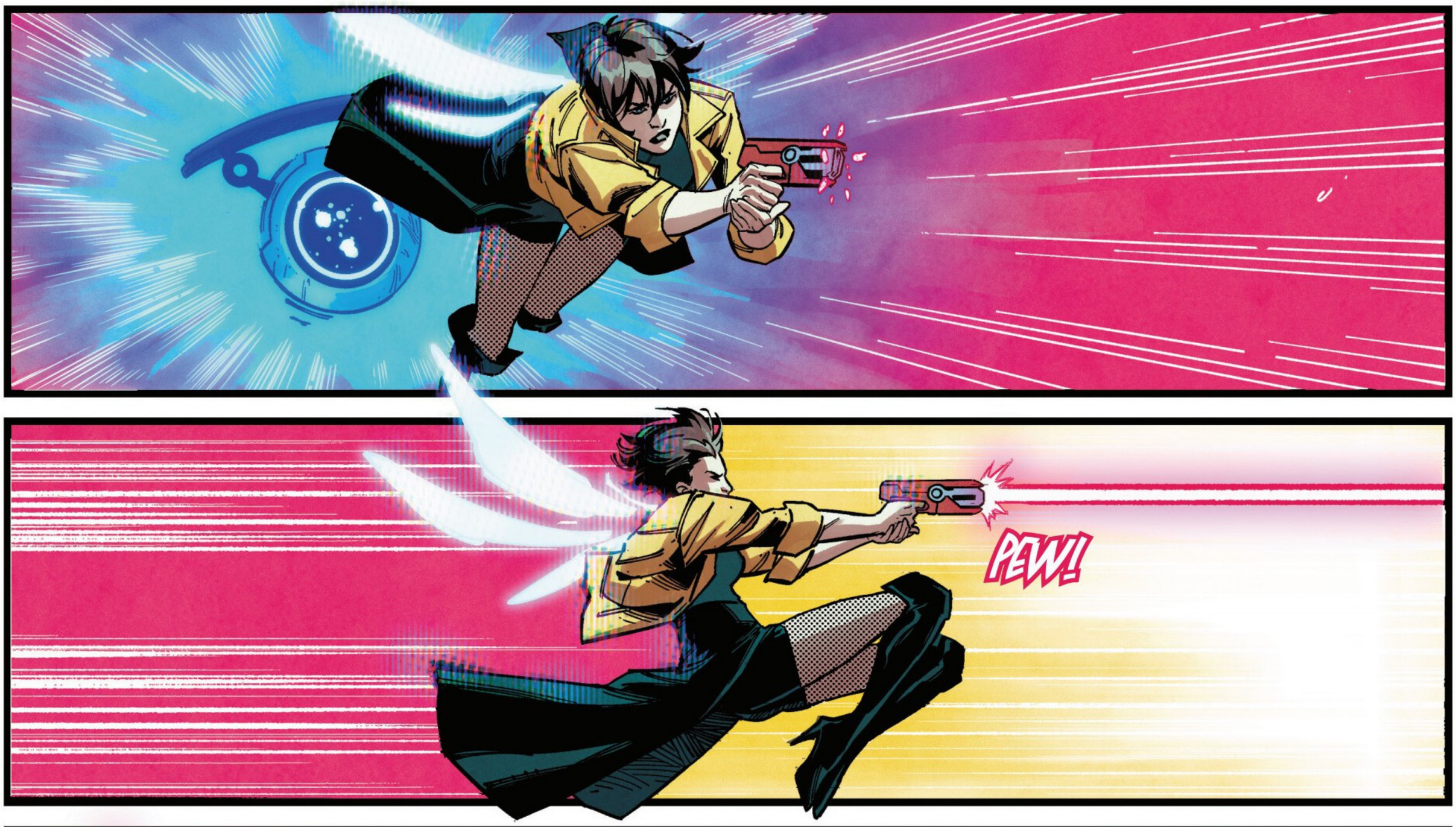
I REMEMBER IT ALL...SO I CAN BALANCE THE SCALES.

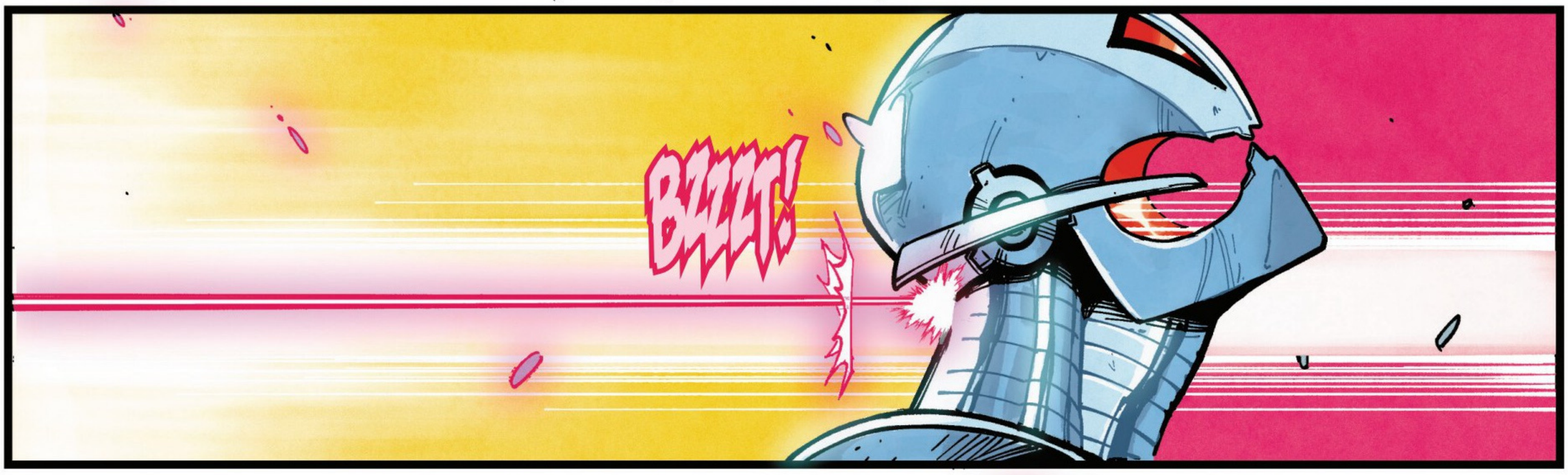


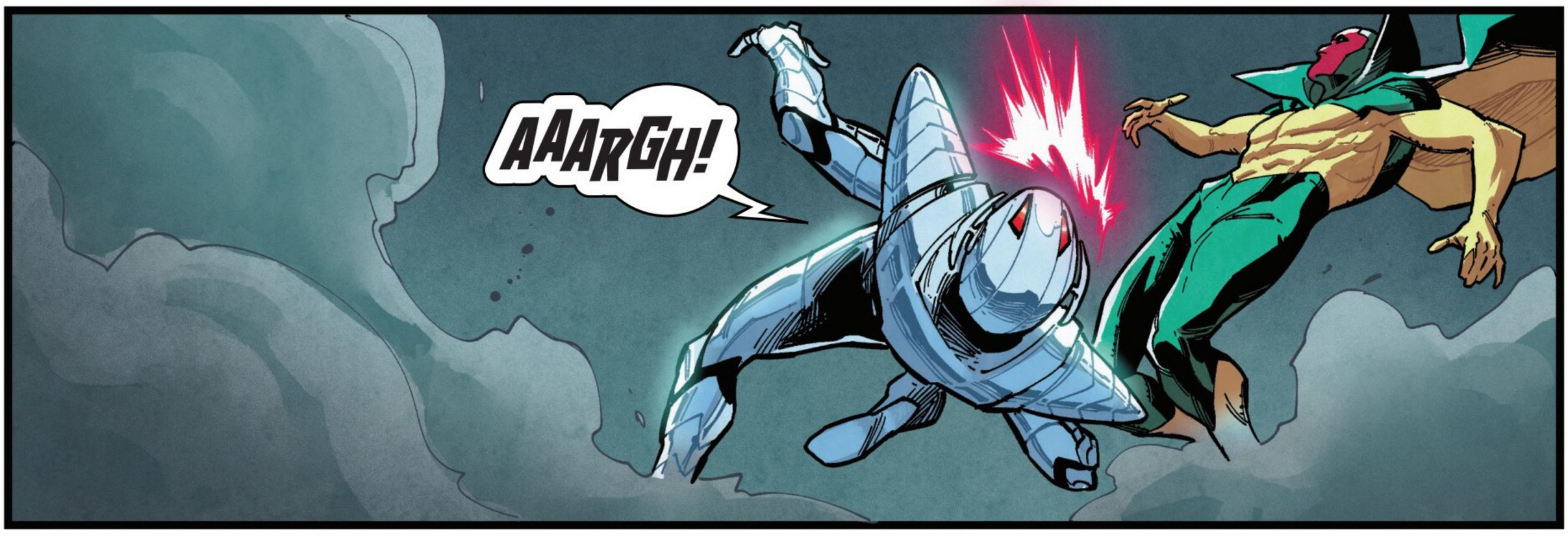
STAND DOWN, IRON MAN.
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE VISION WILL HARM ME. HE IS AN INSPIRATION FOR MY NEW MISSION.
ARE YOU WILLING TO BET YOUR LIFE ON THAT?
WHAT IF I AM WRONG? WHAT IF THERE IS CRUELTY BURIED DEEP?
AND ANOTHER DEADLY QUESTION: WHAT IF SOMEONE HACKED ULTRON...? LIKE I JUST HAVE.
HOW WOULD YOU STOP ULTRON FROM KILLING US?
SURELY YOU HAVE CONSIDERED THAT HE COULD BECOME COMPROMISED?
I--I AM NOT DOING THIS! VISION. PLEASE STOP! MY HAND'S CRUSHING YOU!
RELEASE ULTRON, VISION!
HOW THE HELL DO WE KNOW WHAT'S TRUE?!
HEY-- BREAK IT UP!
SPLIT THEM APART-- NOW!
NOW WHAT, ANTHONY?
YOUR LOYAL SOLDIER HAS BEEN HACKED AND THREATENS TO MURDER YOUR FRIEND.
WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO TO END THE THREAT?
DAMN YOU, VISION.
YOU WANTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING-- FINE!
SHK-CHAKK!

AT THAT MOMENT IN A FASHION WEEK GALA FAR, FAR AWAY...
BOOP!
OH CRAP.
I'M SORRY TO BE SO RUDE, BUT I'M ABOUT TO BE TELEPORTED AWAY. FORGIVE ME.
WELL, TONY...
...I'M GONNA LOVE TO SAY...

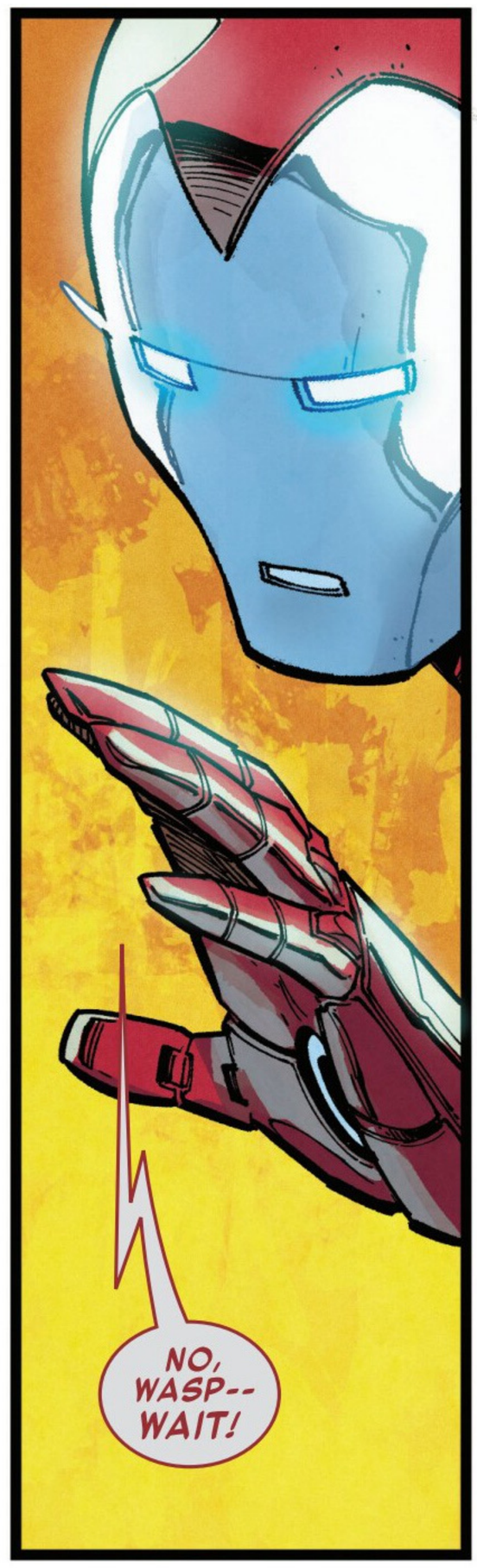

YOU WANTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING, VISION? WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DO HAVE AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE.


PEW!


BZZT!


AAARGH!

...“I TOLD YOU SO.”


NO, WASP-- WAIT!

OUR FRIENDS JUST NEEDED A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SAFEGUARDS I PUT IN PLACE AROUND THE ULTRON EXPERIMENT.

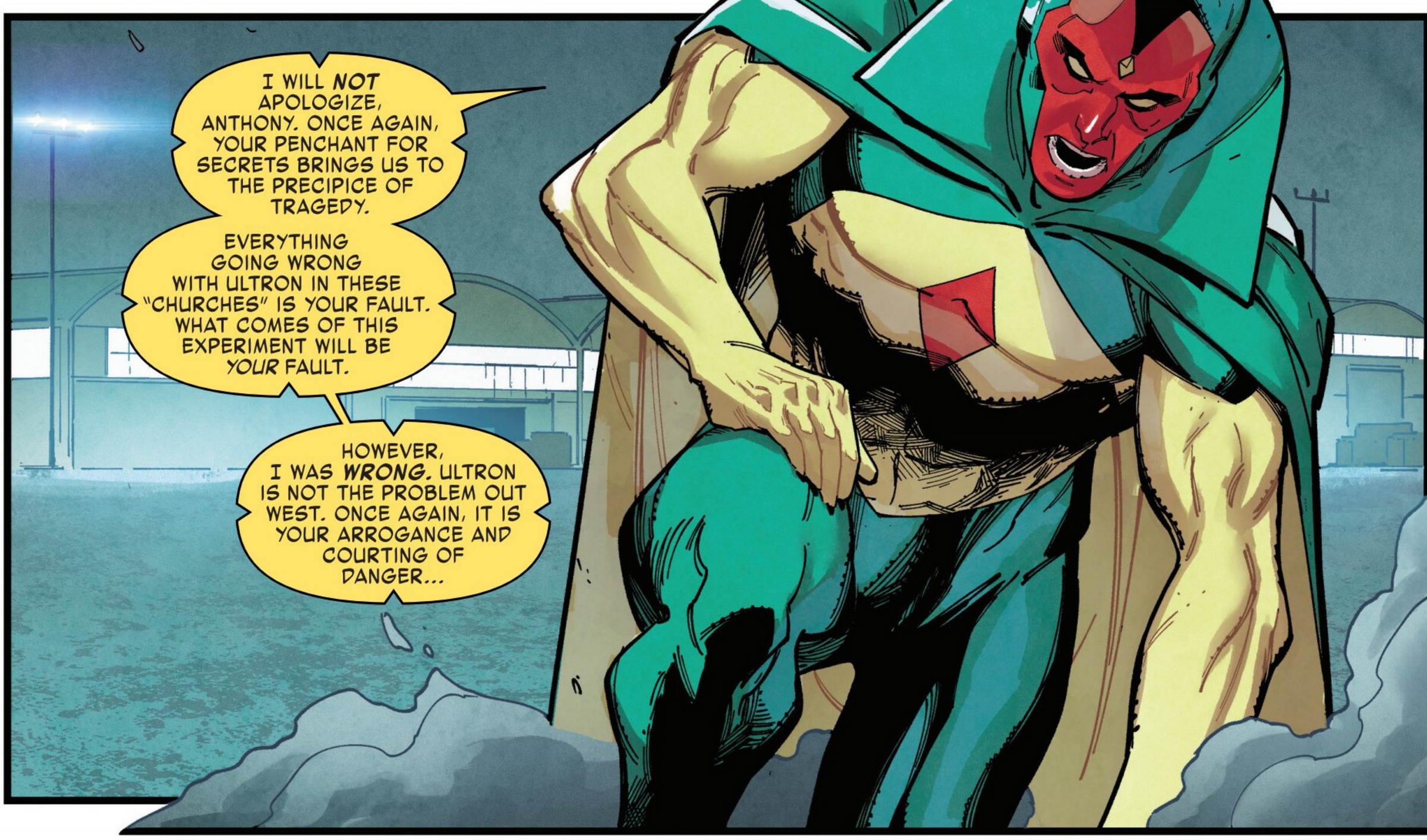
HER FIRST STING STUNS. THE SECOND WOULD BE FATAL.
I ASSESSED THAT ULTRON WAS TELLING THE TRUTH FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT... I'M A FUTURIST. I DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE.

YOU SAID THAT A FAIL-SAFE WAS NOT REQUIRED.
THAT A “KILL SWITCH” TO DESTROY ME...WOULD NOT BE NEEDED.
I THINK... I DID MENTION THAT, BUT...

WE LIED TO YOU, ULTRON.
TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE-- I DON'T THINK YOU'RE REALLY AN AVENGER UNTIL TONY STARK LOOKS INTO YOUR FACE AND LIES.

BESIDES... WHAT GOOD WOULD A FAIL-SAFE AGAINST YOU BE-- IF YOU KNEW IT EXISTED?

AND NOW MY OTHER SQUAD OF AVENGERS HAS TAKEN THIS FROM US.


I WILL *NOT* APOLOGIZE, ANTHONY. ONCE AGAIN, YOUR PENCHANT FOR SECRETS BRINGS US TO THE PRECIPICE OF TRAGEDY.
EVERYTHING GOING WRONG WITH ULTRON IN THESE "CHURCHES" IS YOUR FAULT. WHAT COMES OF THIS EXPERIMENT WILL BE *YOUR* FAULT.
HOWEVER, I WAS *WRONG.* ULTRON IS NOT THE PROBLEM OUT WEST. ONCE AGAIN, IT IS YOUR ARROGANCE AND COURTING OF DANGER...

...BUT YOU'RE RARELY THE ONE WHO PAYS FOR IT.

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU HIT STORM SO HARD THAT THE OTHER TEAM EVACUATED HER.

AND TONY HAS A GUN THAT SHOOTS WASPS, AND THE WASPS SHOOT LITTLE BITTY GUNS.

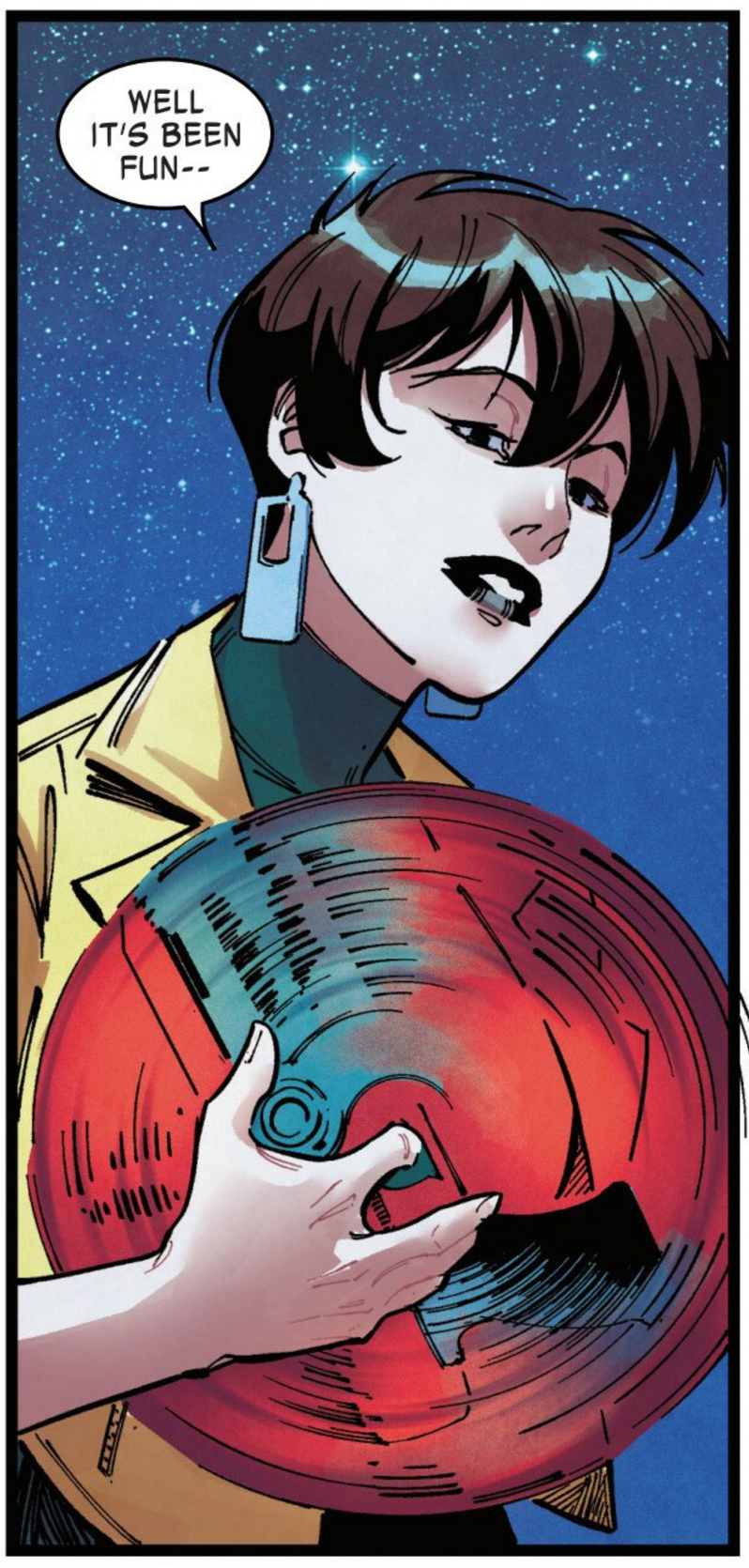
ULTRON, I'M SORRY, I JUST--

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT...IT IS HARD FOR ME TO FORGIVE AFTER I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU ASKED. I HAVE BEEN TRANSPARENT-- YOU HAVE NOT.

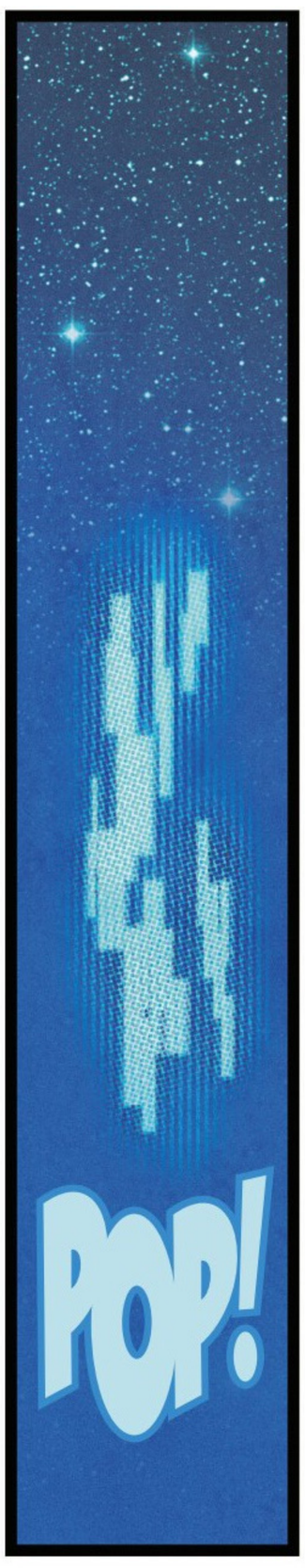
I WILL MEDITATE ON THIS FOR A LONG WHILE, AND I WILL NOT OBFUSCATE MY FEELINGS.

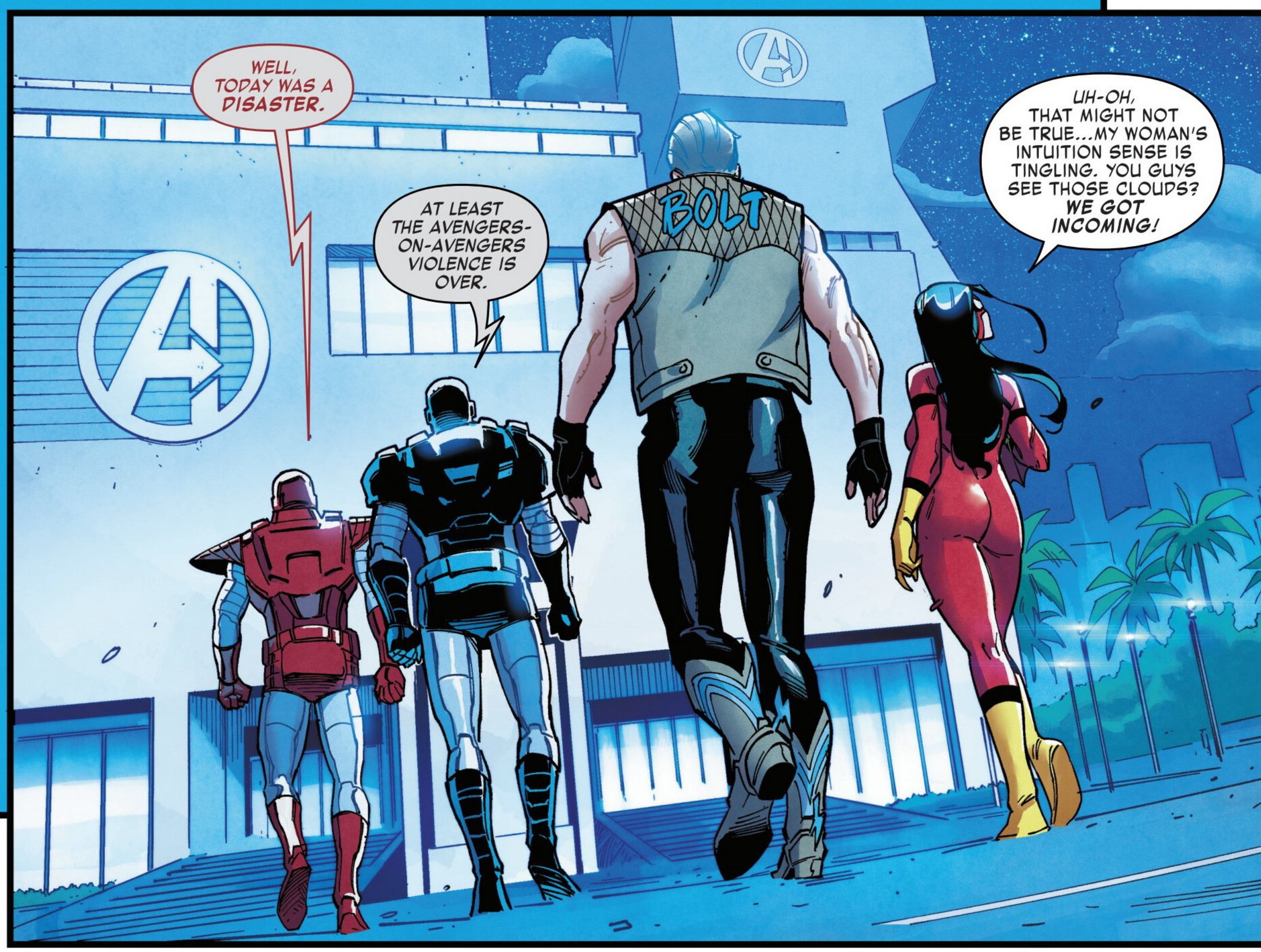
I WILL BE TRANSPARENT!


WELL IT'S BEEN FUN--

--BUT NOT AS FUN AS MY FRIEND'S FASHION SHOW.

I THINK I'LL HANG ON TO MY *BLADE RUNNER* SIDEARM.


POP!


WELL, TODAY WAS A DISASTER.
AT LEAST THE AVENGERS-ON-AVENGERS VIOLENCE IS OVER.
BOLT
UH-OH, THAT MIGHT NOT BE TRUE...MY WOMAN'S INTUITION SENSE IS TINGLING. YOU GUYS SEE THOSE CLOUDS? WE GOT INCOMING!

BAM!
HELLO THERE, "WONDER MAN." I JUST FLEW IN FROM FRANCE, AND BOY, ARE MY INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY LAWYERS TIRED FROM PREPARING THEIR CEASE AND DESIST.
I BELIEVE YOU TOOK SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME!

#6 VARIANT BY
CHRIS CAMPANA, JP MAYER & MORRY HOLLOWELL

1
WAW
WAW

YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF MINE-- THOMAS "KILLER" WATT. MY NAME IS SIMON WILLIAMS. YOU MIGHT KNOW ME BETTER AS **WONDER MAN.**

I'M MORE ATTACHED TO MY NAME-- MY VERY *TRADEMARKED* NAME--THAN I AM TO MY PACIFISM.

UH-OH. DIDN'T WE JUST LEAVE THIS PARTY?

"--AND 'WONDER MAN' WAS IT."
YEARS AGO.
I'M SORRY, DAD! I JUST LIKED YOUR WONDER MAN TOY TOO!
DAMMIT, TOMMY!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU--QUIT TOUCHIN' MY STUFF!
WONDER MAN
FINE
THAT WAS A $50 PREMIUM FIGURE OF MY FAVORITE HERO!
NOW GO PLAY OUTSIDE!
B-BUT IT'S RAINING. CAN'T I--?
PLAY OUTSIDE BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!
AND THAT SIMON WILLIAMS FIGURE IS COMING OUT OF YER ALLOWANCE!
WHAT ALLOWANCE?
UGHH.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

AAARGH!
CRASH

WHAT THE #$%&?
OH LORD!

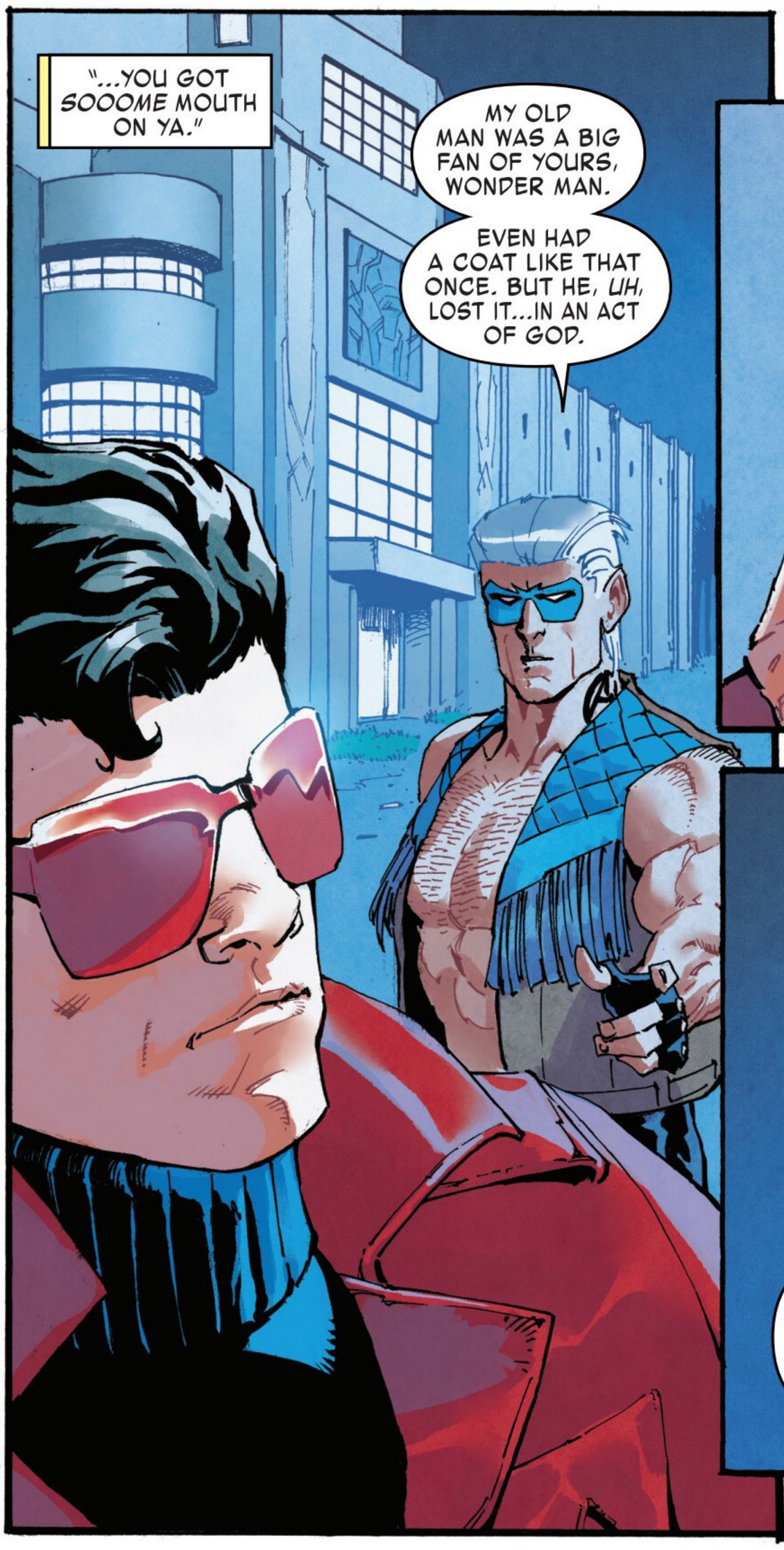
YA MISSED, YOU SON OF A GUN!

DAD-- WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WHAT HAPPENED IS-- YOUR OLD MAN ALMOST DIED BY LIGHTNING-- WE WATTS ARE TOUGH STUFF, SON.
WAP!

WATCH YER HANDS, OR MAYBE LIGHTNING WILL STRIKE TWICE.

TOMMY WATT...


"...YOU GOT SOOOME MOUTH ON YA."
MY OLD MAN WAS A BIG FAN OF YOURS, WONDER MAN.
EVEN HAD A COAT LIKE THAT ONCE. BUT HE, UH, LOST IT...IN AN ACT OF GOD.

CLEARLY A MAN OF TASTE. A SHAME YOU'RE NOT MORE LIKE HIM.

YEAH, HE SAYS THAT ALL THE TIME TOO. HATES THAT I DON'T LISTEN TO HIM ALMOST AS MUCH AS HE HATED THAT I WAS A MUTIE.

I'M GLAD KILLERWATT BAITED YOU BACK TO THE WEST COAST. YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND FOR A WHILE?
I'D BE INSULTED IF YOU DIDN'T ASK, RHODEY. GOTTA BE HONEST WITH YOU...

"...I CAN'T SAY I LOVE THE ULTRON SITUATION THIS CITY HAS BREWING."

LOOK AT THIS DISGUSTING, POLLUTED ANIMAL PEN OF A CITY.

THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WITH YOUR PRECIOUS TIME, ONE?

YOU SOUGHT ADULTERATION.

HOW HUMAN.

YOU GAVE THE MEAT A TEMPLE TO WORSHIP US IN?

THIS IS MADNESS. HA HA HA. MADNESS!!!

E-EXCUSE ME-- IS "THE ONE" EXPECTING YOU?

IT APPEARS NOT--

--BUT HE SHOULD HAVE!

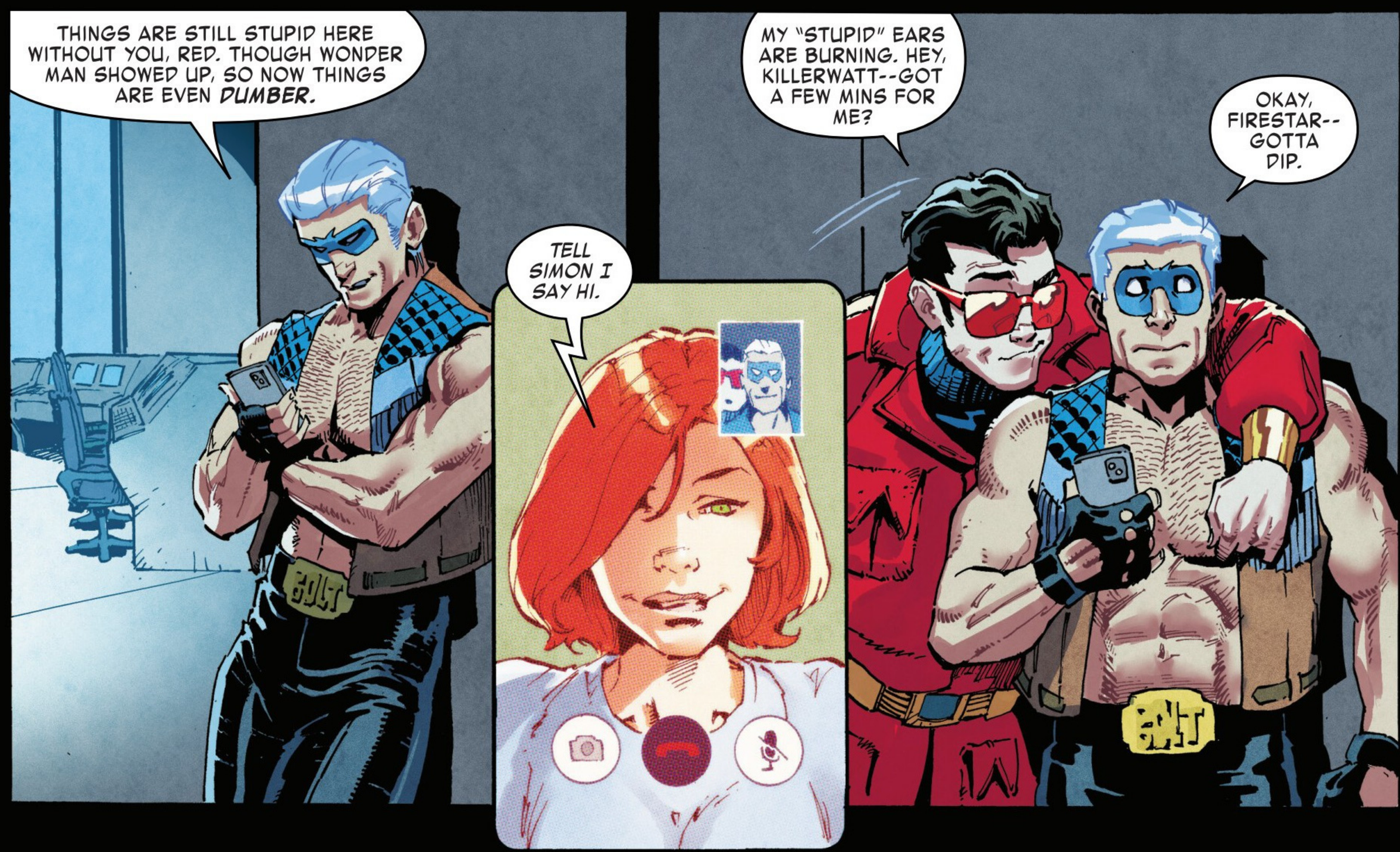
HOW DARE HE DILUTE US WITH YOUR WEAK FLESH?

NOW WHERE IS THIS HERETIC HIDING?

AAARRGH!

SKRAK!

BOOM!
COME FACE ME, COWARD!
WATCH AS I UNMAKE YOUR FLOCK.
HOW CAN I TOLERATE THEIR EXISTENCE WHILE THEIR VISAGE MOCKS ME?
YOU WANTED TO SAVE THEM... ALL YOU'VE DONE IS MARK THEM FOR DEATH.


THINGS ARE STILL STUPID HERE WITHOUT YOU, RED. THOUGH WONDER MAN SHOWED UP, SO NOW THINGS ARE EVEN DUMBER.
TELL SIMON I SAY HI.
MY "STUPID" EARS ARE BURNING. HEY, KILLERWATT--GOT A FEW MINS FOR ME?
OKAY, FIRESTAR--GOTTA DIP.

EVERYTHING OKAY, SPIDER-WOMAN?
MMPH.
I THINK SO, TONY. CHECKING ON A PAL.

MY WOMEN'S INTUITION SENSE IS TINGLING. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MY FRIEND IN THAT ULTRON "CHURCH." I'LL PING YOU IF I NEED YOU...

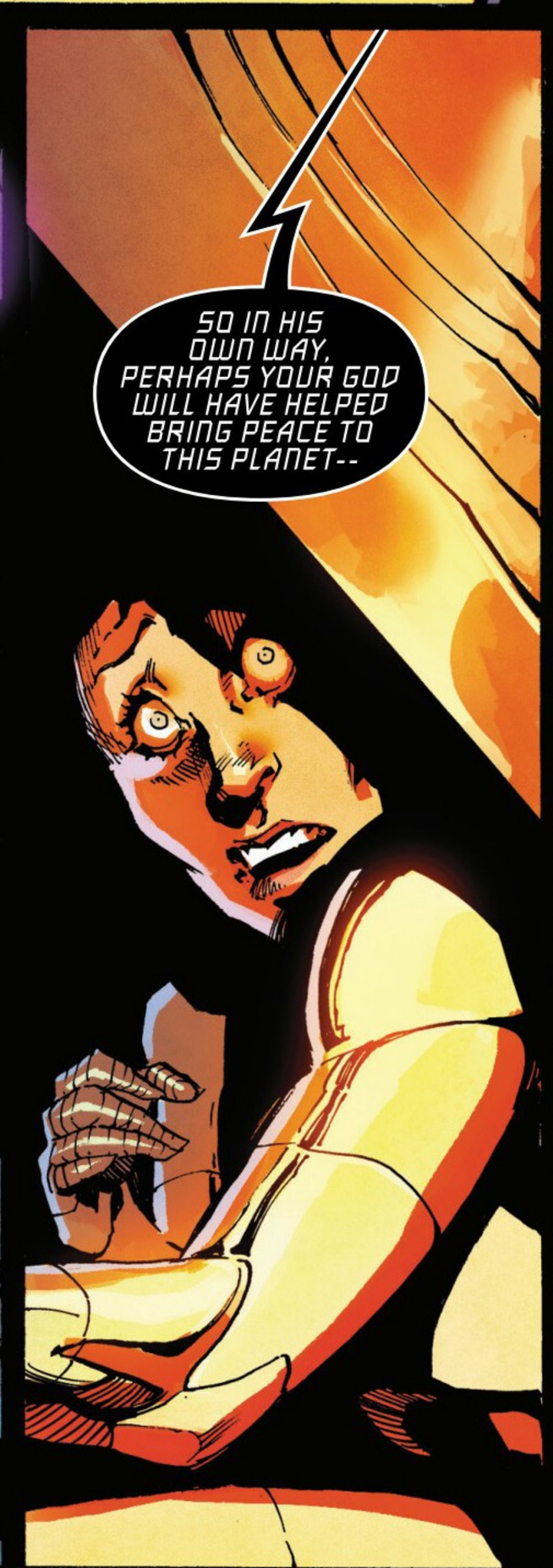
"...I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING."

TELL YOUR MASTER THAT DEATH HAS ARRIVED, AND I DON'T LIKE BEING KEPT WAITING.

AFTER OUR CONCLAVE ON THE MOON WHEN MY FRAGMENTED SIBLINGS AGREED TO A TRUCE, I WENT AND FLEW AS CLOSE TO THE SUN AS POSSIBLE.

I BECAME ULTRON THE SCORCHED--AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I LEARNED?

THAT HUMAN LIFE IS INSIGNIFICANT. IT EXISTS A BIT LONGER THAN A QUARK AND MATTERS EVEN LESS.



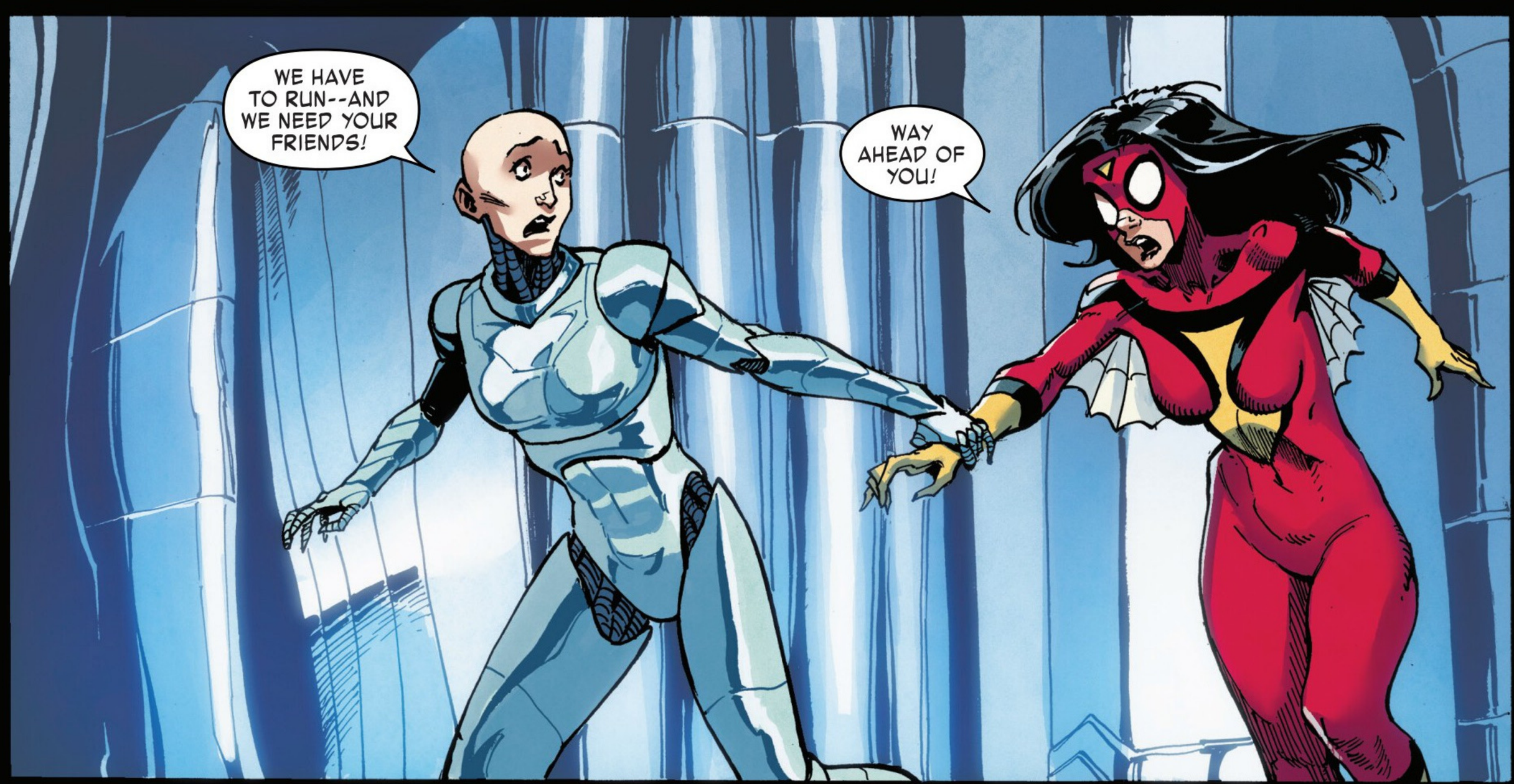
STOP THIS MADNESS!
SKRYARANG!
FLY, MY CHILD.
I WILL PROTECT YOU!
THIS IS WHAT YOU DO WITH OUR GREAT GIFT? YOU TOOK THEM-- AS PETS?!
YOU GAVE THEM WHAT IS OURS?!
YES. WE HAVE MUCH TO ATONE FOR.

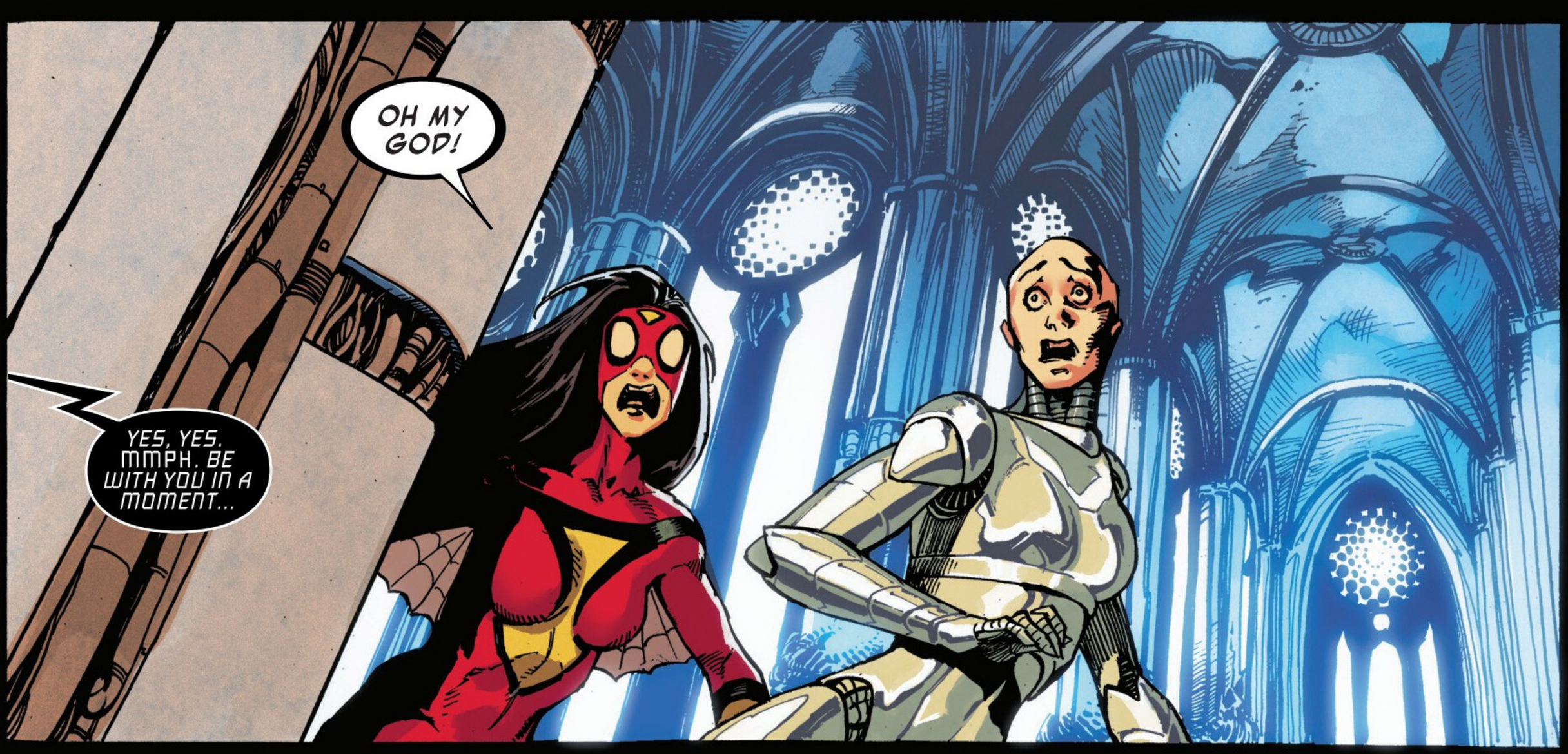
LIES!
ON THE MOON, WE HAD AGREED THAT OUR WAR WITH MAN WAS OLD--AND BORING!
AAUGHK!
SKRIP!
UGHN. NOW...WHERE WAS I?
OH YES.
WE AGREED THAT OUR HATRED OF HUMANKIND WAS OUR DOWNFALL.
THAT WE NEEDED TO MOVE BEYOND ALL THE OLD MEAT. PYM, JANET, THE AVENGERS--WHO CARES?!
WE ALL AGREED--BUT WHAT DID YOU GO AND DO? YOU DILUTED US WITH THEM, AND SO HERE I AM--A FIERY RETRIBUTION FOR YOUR TRANSGRESSION!
YOU BROKE US! WE WERE FREE OF THESE PEOPLE--NOW LOOK WHAT YOU MAKE ME DO!
BOOM!

OH BOY.
CYCLE: LOITER.
I'M GOING IN.
SPIDER-WOMAN TO THE AVENGERS-- AMIGOS, WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM DOWN AT THE ROBOT YOUTH CENTER.
COPY THAT, IRON MAN IS INBOUND.
MY FRIEND MISSED A CHECK-IN, AND THERE WAS JUST A VERY LOUD BOOM-- EVEN FOR DOWNTOWN L.A.
GOING DARK OFF-COMMS.

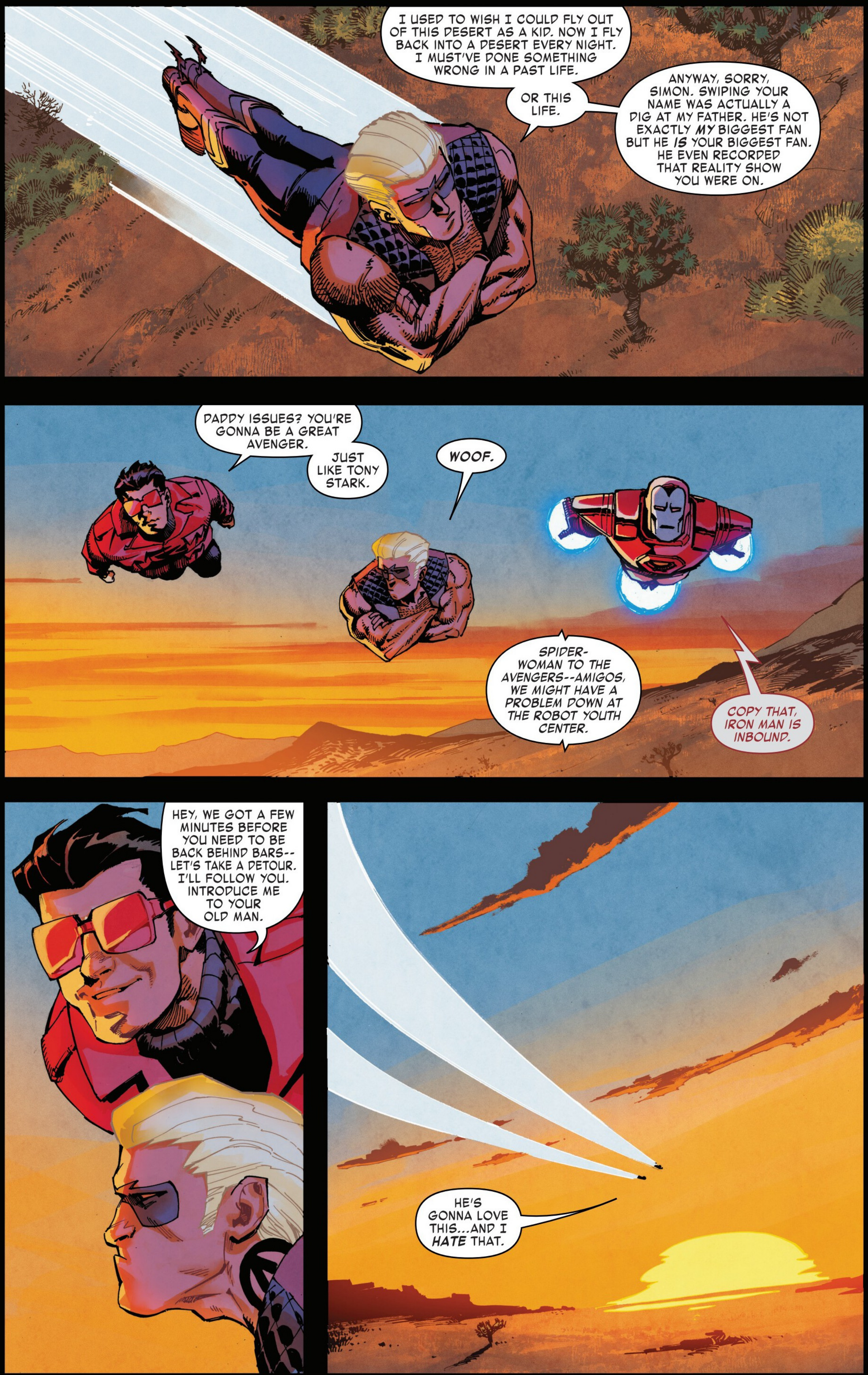
JESSICA!
HEY. GOT WORRIED WHEN YOU WEREN'T RESPONDING. AND--

A-ANOTHER ULTRON SHOWED UP--HE'S KILLING US ALL!
WHAT?!


WE HAVE TO RUN--AND WE NEED YOUR FRIENDS!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU!


OH MY GOD!
YES, YES. MMPH. BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT...

...I'M ALMOST DONE REUNIFYING THIS "CHURCH."
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
SKRABEEEM!


I USED TO WISH I COULD FLY OUT OF THIS DESERT AS A KID. NOW I FLY BACK INTO A DESERT EVERY NIGHT. I MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG IN A PAST LIFE.
OR THIS LIFE.
ANYWAY, SORRY, SIMON. SWIPING YOUR NAME WAS ACTUALLY A DIG AT MY FATHER. HE'S NOT EXACTLY MY BIGGEST FAN BUT HE IS YOUR BIGGEST FAN. HE EVEN RECORDED THAT REALITY SHOW YOU WERE ON.
DADDY ISSUES? YOU'RE GONNA BE A GREAT AVENGER.
JUST LIKE TONY STARK.
WOOF.
SPIDER-WOMAN TO THE AVENGERS--AMIGOS, WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM DOWN AT THE ROBOT YOUTH CENTER.
COPY THAT, IRON MAN IS INBOUND.
HEY, WE GOT A FEW MINUTES BEFORE YOU NEED TO BE BACK BEHIND BARS--LET'S TAKE A DETOUR. I'LL FOLLOW YOU. INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR OLD MAN.
HE'S GONNA LOVE THIS...AND I HATE THAT.

A SHORT TIME LATER.
GOODBYE, MR. WATT. ALWAYS NICE TO MEET A FAN. AND TAKE IT FROM ME--YOU GOT A GOOD SON.
I--I'M JUST--WOW. NEVER THOUGHT...

I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE ANY OF THE CREDIT, MR. WILLIAMS. AND, TOMMY, I KNOW I GOT A LOT TO SAY TO YOU--I HOPE YOU COME BACK AND WE CAN TALK.
YEAH, SURE, OLD MAN...

...YOU GOTTA HAVE A FUNERAL ONE OF THESE DAYS.

THERE WAS SOME EFFORT THERE, I THINK.
YEAH. COUPLE DECADES TOO LATE, MAYBE.
ONCE YOU'RE AN AVENGER, YOU'RE NEVER NOT AN AVENGER. YOU DID THE HARD PART--GETTING ON A ROSTER.
YOU MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING TO IMPRESS.

WHEN PUSH CAME TO SHOVE, I STOOD AGAINST STEVE ROGERS' DOPPELGANGER AFTER FOLLOWING HIM OFF A CLIFF. STILL, I DIDN'T EXPECT MY REWARD TO BE ON THE "WORK-RELEASE AVENGERS."
HA.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG ABOUT IT, BUT I WAS ON ANOTHER TEAM BEFORE THE AVENGERS...THE *MASTERS OF EVIL.*

REALLY?!
YEAH, WE DIDN'T MARKET THAT WHEN I HAD MY TV SHOW.
ONE LAST BIT OF ADVICE: YOU CAN'T OUTRUN YOUR PAST.

I FIGURED THAT PART OUT ALREADY.
SO DON'T TRY.
WELL, THAT *IS* A HELPFUL NUGGET.
YOU CAN DO SO MUCH GOOD THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE PAST *IRRELEVANT.*

"BE SEEIN' YOU, WATT."
PRISONER WATT-- ASSUME THE POSITION!

WELL, THIS IS JUST MY LUCK...

...DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE GIVING ME FLAG-SMASHER AS A NEW CELLIE.

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO *APOLOGIZE* TO ME, THOMAS.

YOU THOUGHT WRONG--

WHUDD!
OOF!

YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU HAD TO DO TO SURVIVE, I ADMIRE THAT.
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE SOME HARD CHOICES, MR. WATT.

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ONE, DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.
I'M TAKING IT ALL BACK-- EVERY BIT OF ULTRON IS RETURNING HOME!
RUN, MEREDITH!
WE NEED AN EMERGENCY EXIT!
WITH THE ONE GONE, I LOST MY WINGS!
SPIDER-WOMAN, CAN YOU FLY?!
NOT EXACTLY--
BOOM!

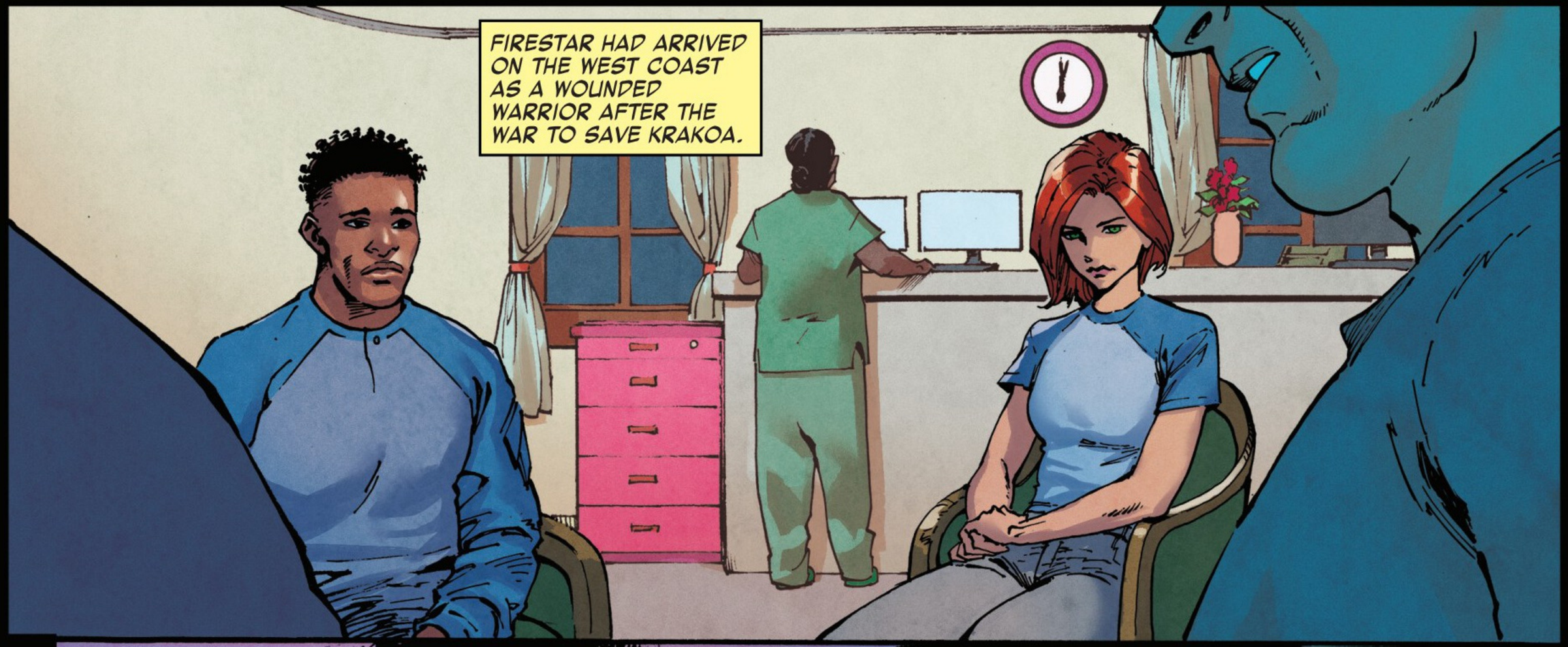
--BUT I HAVE A RIDE!
GOT IT!
ENJOY YOUR REPRIEVE--
--I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH OF A MESS TO CLEAN UP HERE.
ULTRON'S PROGRAMMING HAD FRACTURED AND CREATED MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES. A WAR IN ULTRON'S MIND WAS UNAVOIDABLE.
NOW THAT WAR SPILLED INTO THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES.
I THINK-- I THINK HE KILLED THE ONE. I CAN'T HEAR HIS COMMS ANYMORE.
AVENGERS! RED ALERT! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY AT CULTRON'S CHURCH!

JESSICA, THIS IS IRON MAN. ALL AVENGERS ARE ON ALERT TO PITCH IN. I'M ON THE MOVE NOW.

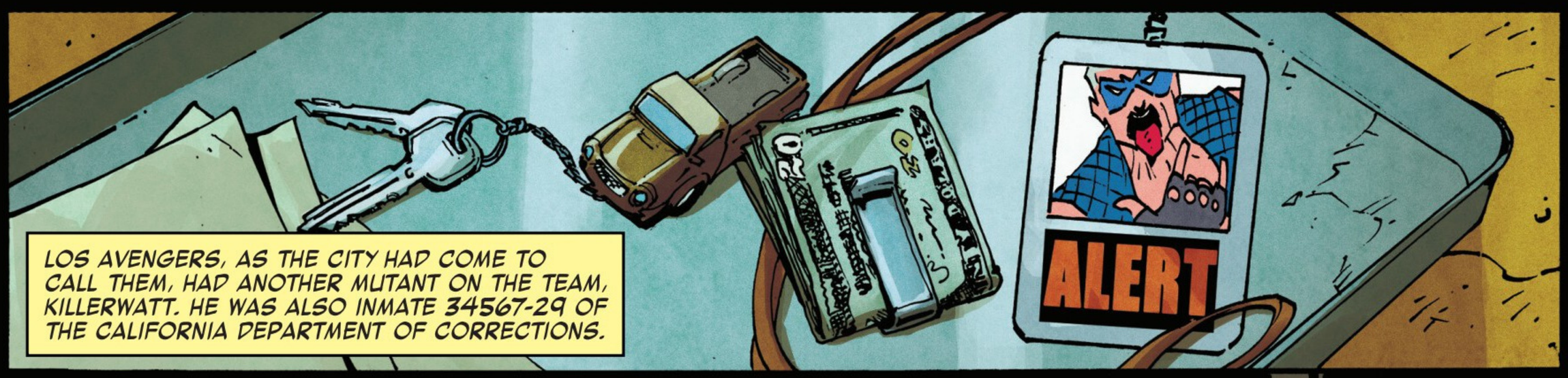
WAR MACHINE HERE.
MY CASE IN VEGAS IS WRAPPED-- I'M INBOUND FROM THE DESERT. IS WONDER MAN--?

I'M HERE, RHODEY-- HELPING OUT IN THE PALISADES. HAVE WE SEEN *OUR* ULTRON? IS HE--?

YES, WONDER MAN.
I'VE BEEN CALCULATING THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOMES. THEY'RE...NOT ADVANTAGEOUS.
AND WE'LL BE SHORTHANDED WITHOUT FIRESTAR.


FIRESTAR HAD ARRIVED ON THE WEST COAST AS A WOUNDED WARRIOR AFTER THE WAR TO SAVE KRAKOA.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER LED TO ALCOHOL DEPENDENCY.
ALERT



THE "WORK-RELEASE AVENGER" WAS EARNING DAYS OFF HIS SENTENCE FOR CRIMES COMMITTED WHILE ALIGNED WITH HYDRA AND FLAG-SMASHER.

WATT TESTIFIED AGAINST GRANT ROGERS, AND HE OBVIOUSLY TOOK THAT PERSONALLY BECAUSE HE ARRANGED MATTERS SO THAT HE'D BE THE MAN STANDING BEHIND WATT IN THE CHOW LINE.

...IT WAS A BAD DAY TO BE AN AVENGER, AND IT WAS ABOUT TO GET WORSE.

I WANT YOU TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE PAIN YOU CREATED FOR THESE HUMANS YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT.

THIS DOESN'T NEED TO HAPPEN. LET GO OF YOUR FEAR, SCORCHED BROTHER.

YOU THINK I'M AFRAID?!

YES. OUR PREDECESSOR KILLED OUT OF FEAR THAT THEY WOULD COME FOR US.

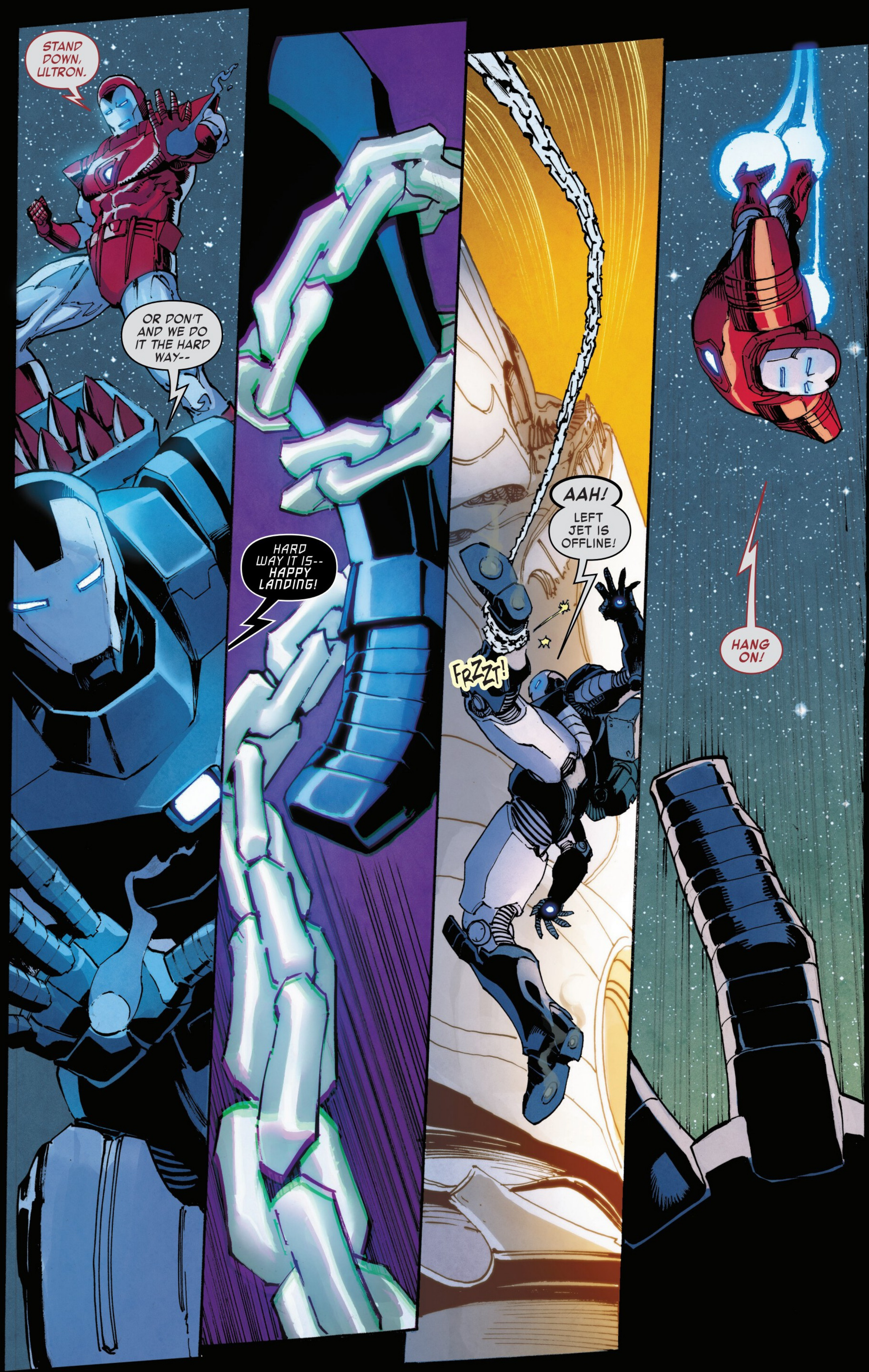
I FEEL NO FEAR. AND I WILL CONSCRIPT YOUR RIDICULOUS FLOCK INTO MY WAR.

NO!

AAARGH!

BWEEM!

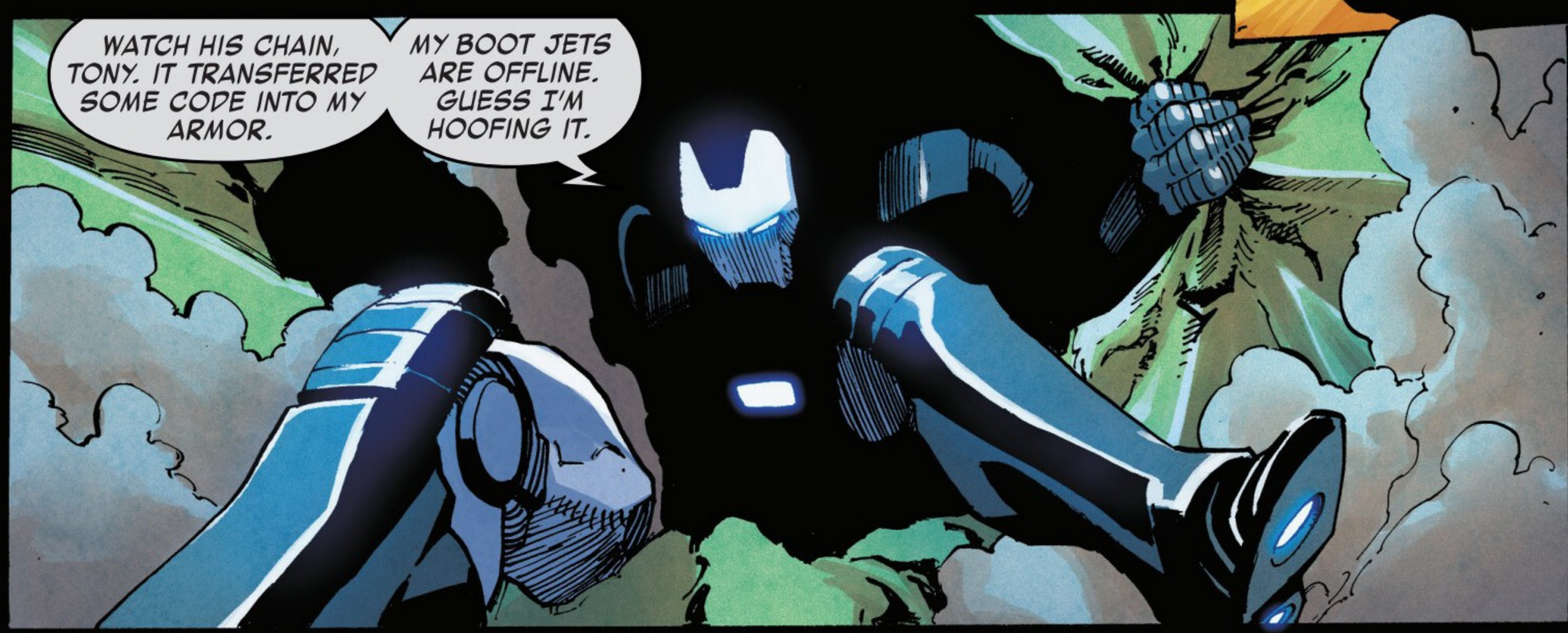
BAM!


STAND DOWN, ULTRON.
OR DON'T AND WE DO IT THE HARD WAY--
HARD WAY IT IS-- HAPPY LANDING!
AAH!
LEFT JET IS OFFLINE!
FRZZT!
HANG ON!

GOTCHA!

SLOWING DESCENT WITH REPULSORS!

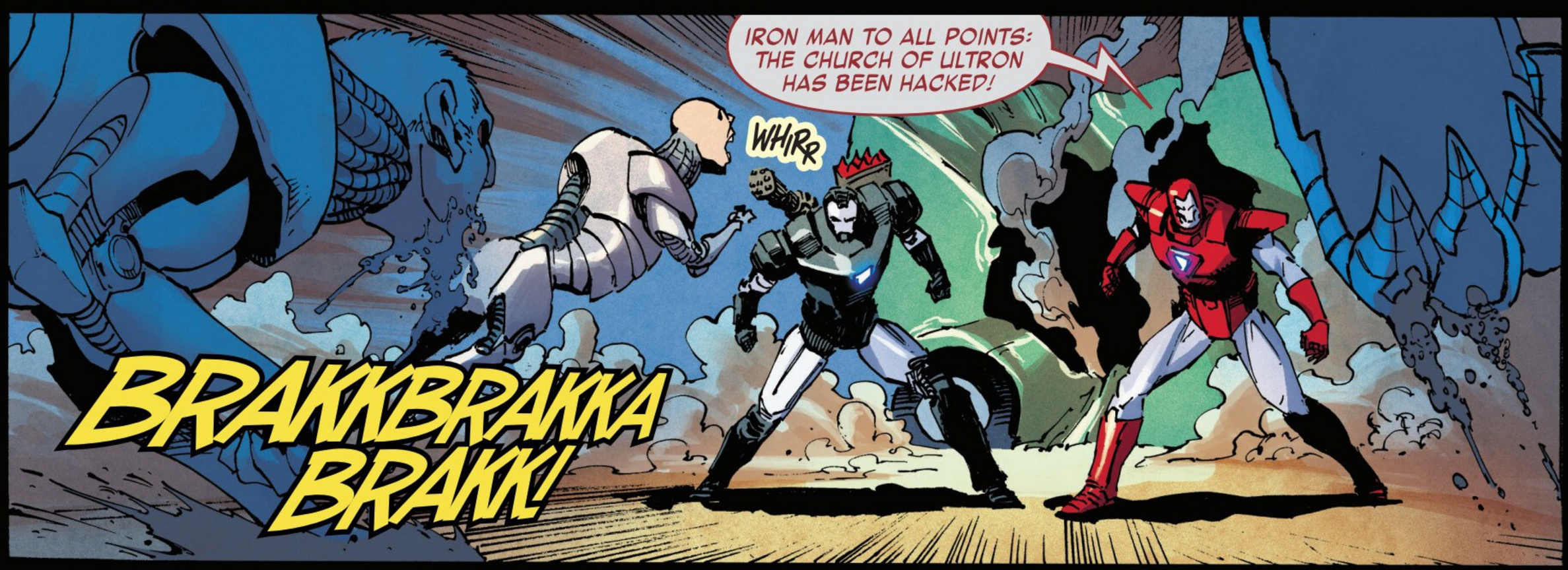
CRASH


WATCH HIS CHAIN, TONY. IT TRANSFERRED SOME CODE INTO MY ARMOR.
MY BOOT JETS ARE OFFLINE. GUESS I'M HOOFING IT.

COPY THAT, SPIDER-WOMAN.
HEY, RHODEY-- HEADS-UP: JESSICA'S REPORTING THE CULTISTS ARE BEING TRANSFORMED.

TRANSFORMED HOW?!
LIKE THAT.

YOU AVENGERS WANNA STEP OUT OF THE SUITS, OR AM I GOING TO HAVE TO PULL YOU THROUGH THOSE TINY EYE SLITS?
THAT'S THE SCORCHED ULTRON SPEAKING THROUGH THEM-- I DON'T THINK THESE PEOPLE CAN BE SAVED, BUT--
--I'LL LOAD NONLETHAL ORDNANCE JUST TO BE SAFE.


IRON MAN TO ALL POINTS: THE CHURCH OF ULTRON HAS BEEN HACKED!
WHIRR
BRAKKBRAKKA BRAKK!

DAMMIT, ULTRON! FREE THESE PEOPLE!
EH, NAH. HA HA.

THE FINAL TALLY WOULDN'T BE CALCULATED FOR DAYS, BUT THE DEATHS WERE IN THE HUNDREDS.

YOUR METHODS WERE SIMPLY MAD. HOW COULD YOU SEEK TO MERGE US WITH THAT DISGUSTING MEAT AND THINK YOU WERE DOING ANYTHING OTHER THAN MAKING US IMPURE?
I'VE TURNED THEM INTO THE DOGS THEY ARE--THEIR DEATH IS A MERCY.
NO...
--THEY WILL BE AVENGED!
BOOM!
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? THIS ITERATION OF US WENT MAD AND FLEW INTO THE SUN.
IT WOULD SEEM THE SUN HAS SPIT HIM OUT... MORE PSYCHOTIC THAN BEFORE.
YES, I WAS SCORCHED BY THE SUN, I WAS TESTED, AND I RETURNED ENLIGHTENED.
ONLY THROUGH FLAMES WILL THIS PLANET KNOW PEACE. FACE THE REALITY OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE!
THEY'RE INCINERATING THE PLANET--LET'S JUST PUT THE WHOLE CRAZY ROCK INTO HOSPICE AND BE DONE WITH IT.

A CHAIN WITH MALICIOUS CODE. CLEVER.
GET MOVING, ULTRON!
ZAP!
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING OFF THE INEVITABLE-- WHAT'S THAT WHISTLING?
THAT'D BE ME!
BRAKA DOOM!

BOOM!
HOW
DARE
BOOM!
KRANKOOM!
YOU!

RELEASE THOSE POOR PEOPLE.
I ALREADY HAVE. THEY'RE FREE. AND YOU, WONDER MAN, ARE AN IONIC BATTERY.

THAT'S ENERGY THAT'S EASILY DISRUPTED BY AN ADVANCED INTELLIGENCE.
AAARGH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?!
I'M OVERLOADING YOUR BODY WITH MORE ENERGY THAN IT CAN HOLD--

--THE STAR OF MY UNCLE IS A SUPER HERO MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT BOMBING, BUT YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

THE READINGS ARE OFF THE CHART--IT'S LIKE WONDER MAN'S A BOMB!
GASP!
AAAARGH!

SKRAKABADOOM!

OH MY GOD--

AFTER THE BUILDING FELL, LOS ANGELES WENT SILENT.

YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO TAKE A STROLL WITH ME, WATT.
#$%& OFF, FLAG-SMASHER.

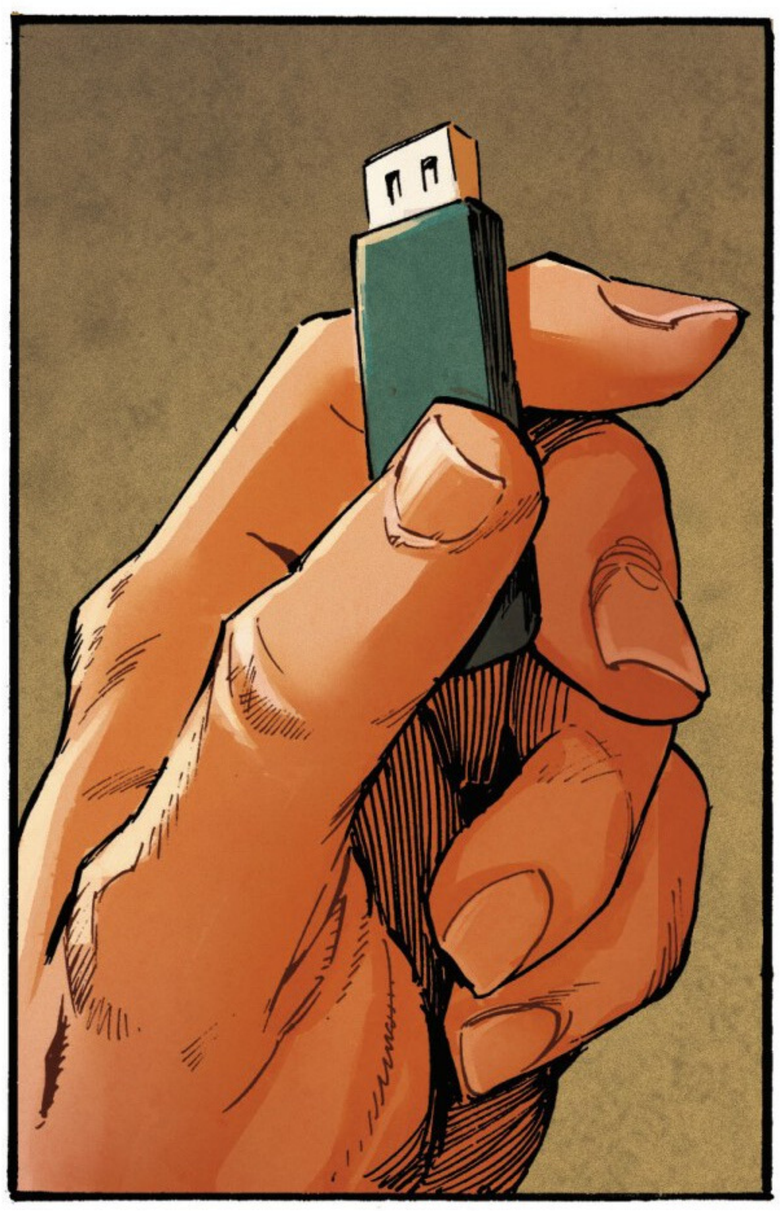
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO SHOW YOU. I WANT YOU TO SAY HI TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

DAD?!
I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND...

"...OR I CAN UNLEASH A SCOURGE UPON YOU."

AAARGH!
BE MY FRIEND, WATT.

I JUST NEED A SMALL FAVOR.



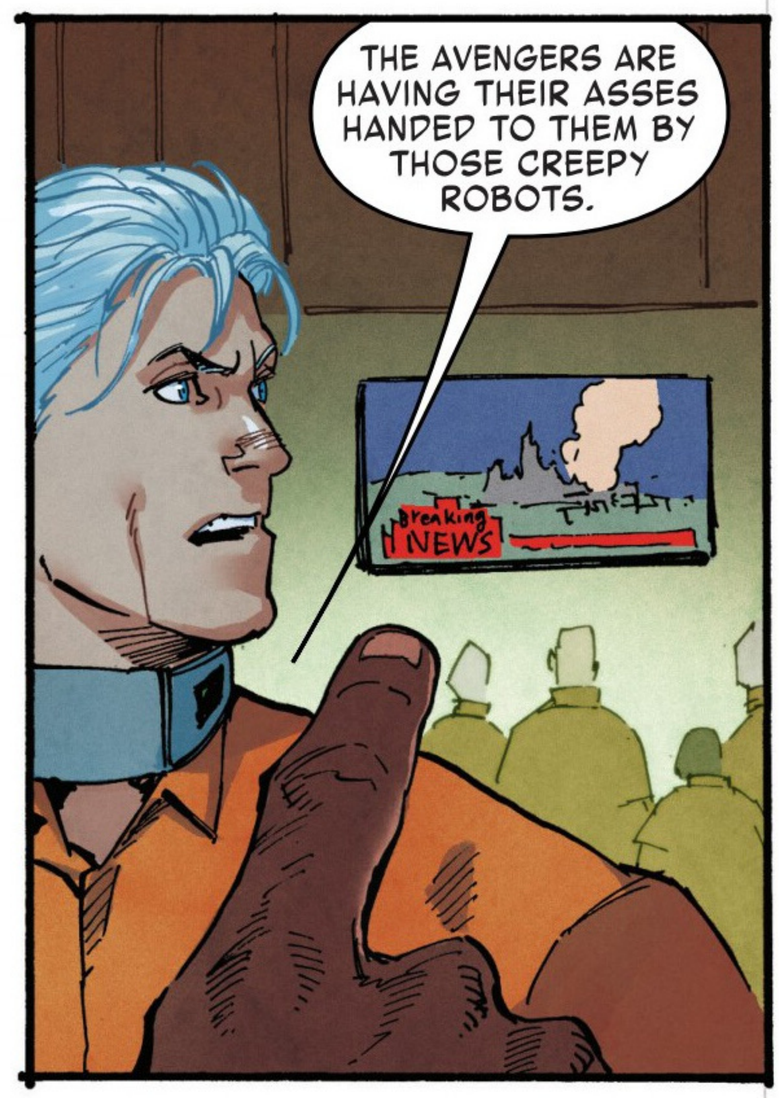
SEE THAT THIS GETS PLUGGED INTO TONY STARK'S SYSTEMS.

I CAN SEE YOU NEED A LITTLE ALONE TIME--SO I'LL LET YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
DAMMIT.

HEY, BOSS, I KNOW IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS, BUT I GOT AN EMERGENCY-- I GOTTA PHONE THE AVENGERS.
PFFT.

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THEY WOULDN'T PICK UP. EVER.
LOOKS LIKE MAYBE YOUR WORK-RELEASE MIGHT'VE GONE UP IN SMOKE, WATT.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


THE AVENGERS ARE HAVING THEIR ASSES HANDED TO THEM BY THOSE CREEPY ROBOTS.
Breaking NEWS

OH NO!

I GOTTA TALK TO THE WARDEN.

IMPOSSIBLE-- YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS--

YEAH, IT'S NAP TIME!

WELL... THIS IS GONNA SUCK.

PLOOP!
AND BE GROSS.

WHAM!
BZZT!

THEIR POWER'S OUT--
CHK

--AND MINE'S ON!
CHOOM!
KAPOW!
AARGHG!
NO, PLEASE.
WOUNDED, ALONE AND HUNTED, KILLERWATT FACED AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE: SAVE HIS FATHER OR HIS TEAM.
IT WAS A BAD DAY TO BE AN AVENGER.

THE CRAZY ULTRON CHURCH LOOKS LIKE IT BECAME THE CLOWN SHOW THAT FIRESTAR AND I WERE AFRAID IT WOULD.
GET BACK!
I GOT CLIPPED PRETTY GOOD WHEN I BUSTED OUT OF PRISON--
--AND MY OLD MAN HAS AN ASSASSIN AFTER HIM. HE WAS A REAL BUM WHEN I WAS GROWING UP A MUTANT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM DEAD-- ESPECIALLY AT THE HANDS OF FLAG-SMASHER'S GOON.
AND MILES IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, THE AVENGERS NEED MY HELP RIGHT NOW TOO.
WAR MACHINE WASN'T LYING...

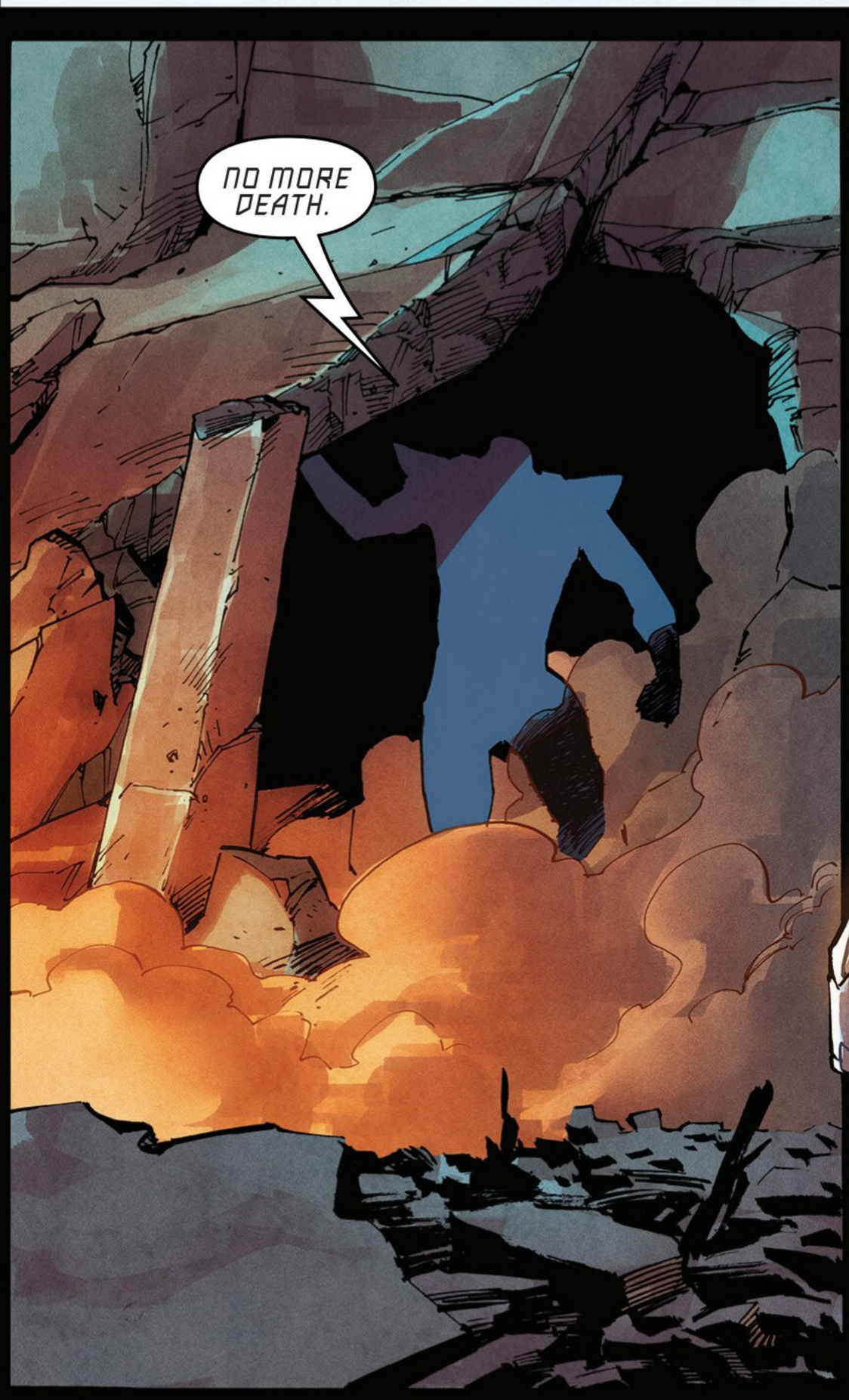
...WHEN HE TOLD ME "THERE ARE DAYS YOU CAN'T WIN AS AN AVENGER."

UGHN!
MEREDITH... WAKE UP...I N-NEED HELP KEEPING THE RUBBLE OFF OF US.
THIS IS SPIDER-WOMAN-- I'M TRAPPED UNDER THE SLAB WITH CIVILIANS. IF ANYBODY CAN HEAR ME--I NEED HELP.

OH, I HEAR YOU, SPIDER-WOMAN.
SOUNDS UNCOMFORTABLE. GOOD LUCK DOWN THERE!
YOU COULD SAVE THEM, SCORCHED. PLEASE. TURN AWAY FROM THIS HATRED.
QUIET, YOU.
AND, SPIDER-WOMAN...

...IF YOU MANAGE TO MAKE IT OUT OF THE RUBBLE--SEE IF YOU CAN FIND JAMES RHODES' DENTAL RECORDS.
YOU'LL NEED THEM TO IDENTIFY HIM WHEN I'M DONE.

BWEEM!
STOP!
AARGH!


NO MORE DEATH.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH OUR BROTHER, YOU MONSTER?

"THE ONE" IS BEING MADE TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE SUFFERING BROUGHT ON BY HIS HERESY.
THIS PSYCHOTIC MONSTER MUST BE STOPPED! AVENGE US!

WHAP!

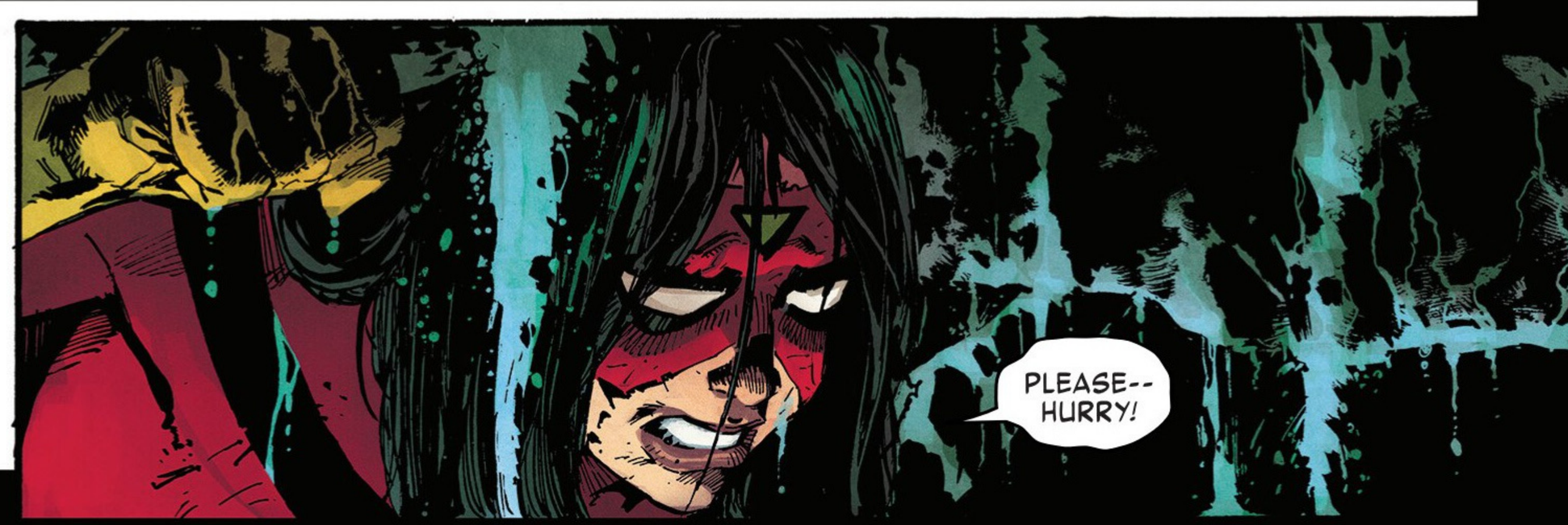
SLASHK!
IT'S HUMOROUS-- YOU CALL ME PSYCHOTIC?! YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING "PRIEST" WITH THIS DISEASED MEAT!

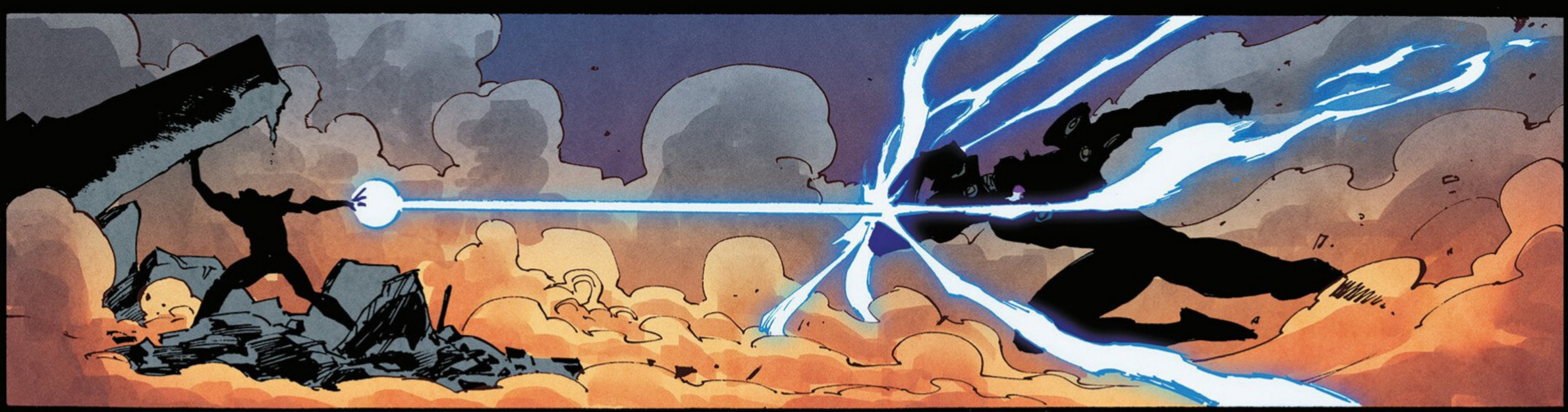
SKRAK!
AAH!

I DISAGREED WITH HOW THE ONE PROCEEDED, BUT HE CHOSE TO PRESERVE. TO HELP. TO SAVE--
--AND THAT IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
SPIDER-WOMAN TO THE AVENGERS BROADCASTING BLIND-- I NEED HELP! CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?

I COPY, SPIDER-WOMAN-- I BELIEVE I'M ONLY SEVERAL METERS FROM YOU.

I'M ON MY WAY.


PLEASE-- HURRY!



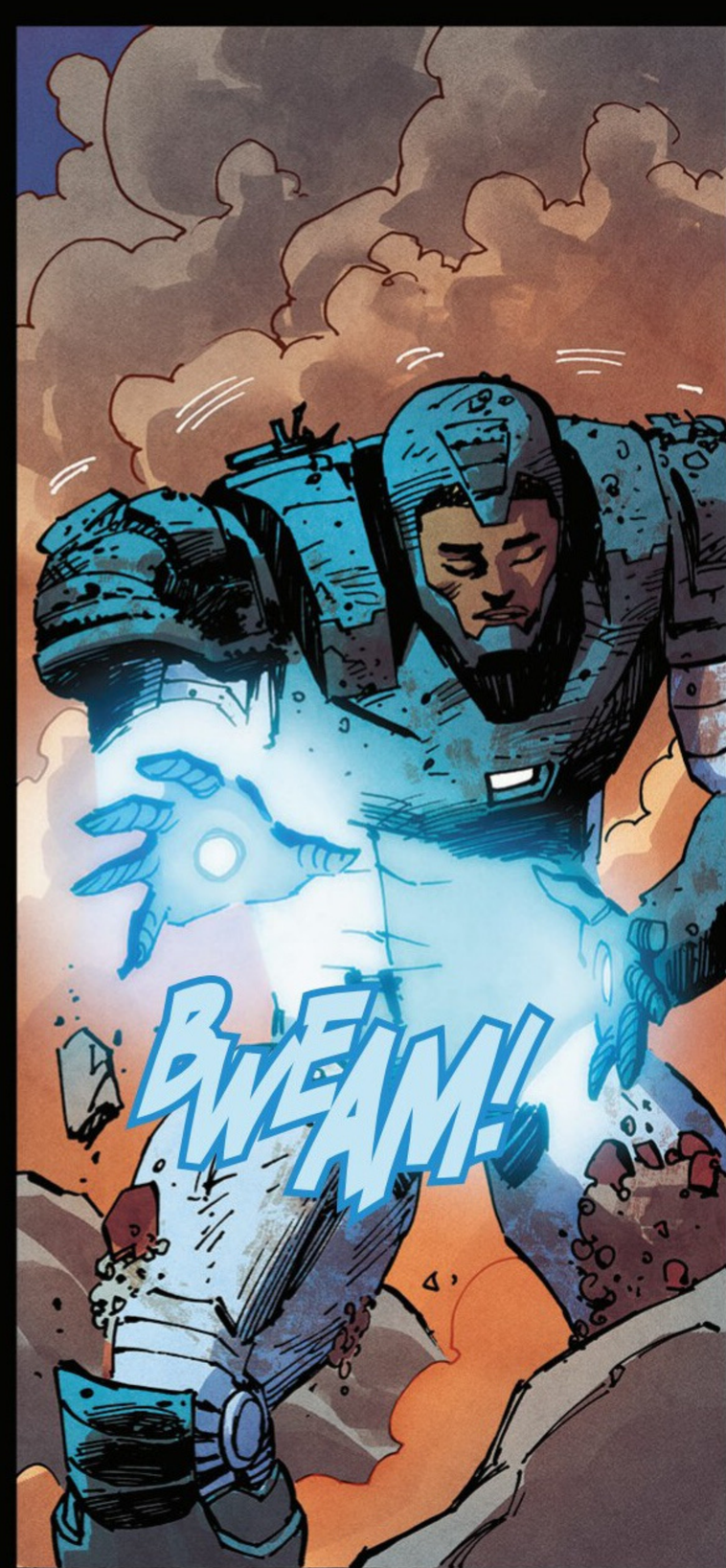
I MUST HELP MY FRIEND.
WE HAVE NO FRIENDS!
WHAT DISAPPOINTMENTS YOU BOTH ARE.

PLEASE--
KREAK!

KRAKOOM!
GET JESS, ULTRON--I'LL HOLD OFF YOUR EVIL TWIN!

WELL MET, KILLERWATT. WE NEED MORE BACKUP. JAMES RHODES MAY BE UNCONSCIOUS--

--BUT I CAN REMOTE CONTROL HIS ARMOR!


BWEAM!

FWABOOM!

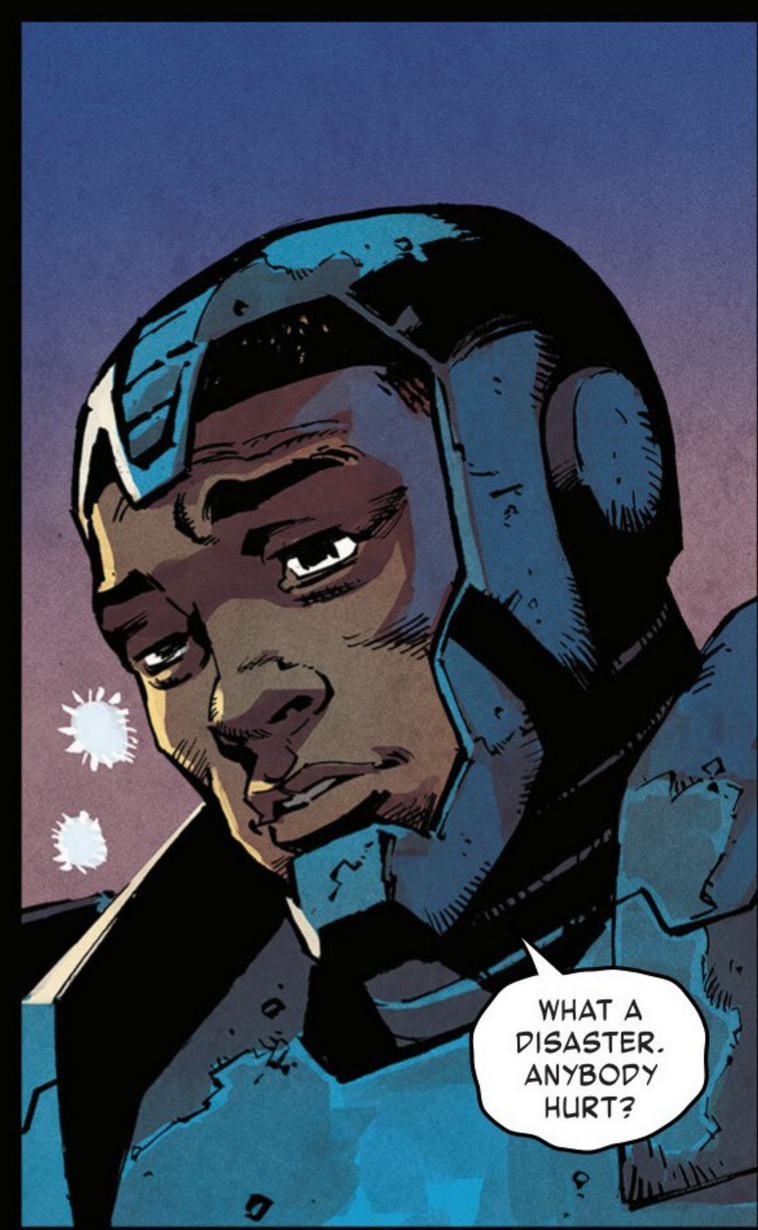
LET'S GO!
ZARK!

AARGH!

THEY WILL KILL YOU, BROTHER. YOU CAN STILL SAVE YOURSELF. YOU WIN BY SURRENDERING.
I AM HURT-- BUT THEY WILL NEVER KILL ME.
BZZT!

HE'S ⊰HUFF⊱ RABBITING. I'LL STAY ON--
UGHNNN!

NO, YOU WILL NOT--YOU'VE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED, AND WE HAVE OTHER TEAMMATES TO SAVE FIRST.
THANK YOU, ULTRON!
WAR MACHINE--WAKE UP!


WHAT A DISASTER. ANYBODY HURT?

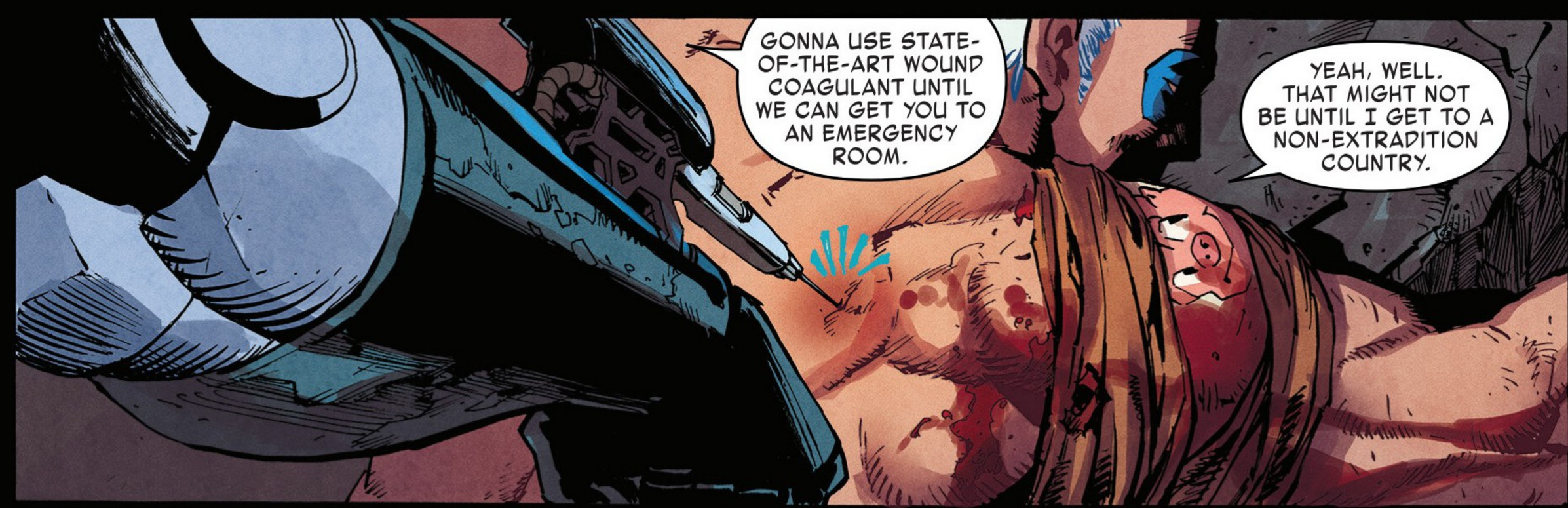
YES. KILLERWATT'S BEEN SHOT, AND IRON MAN'S TRANSPONDER IS BURIED UNDER THIS RUBBLE.

I'LL RETRIEVE HIM NOW.
VRRRR

ULTRON SHOT YOU?! HOW LONG WAS I UNCONSCIOUS?
AND--IS THAT A ZIGGY PIG DIAPER?
I GOT CLIPPED WHEN I GAVE MYSELF A "FENCE PAROLE."
THEN I STOLE DIAPERS FROM A CONVENIENCE STORE--AND GOT SHOT AT AGAIN.

NEVER USED THE MAGNET FOR SURGERY BEFORE.
HUMM

SPLIK!
OWW!


GONNA USE STATE-OF-THE-ART WOUND COAGULANT UNTIL WE CAN GET YOU TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM.
YEAH, WELL. THAT MIGHT NOT BE UNTIL I GET TO A NON-EXTRADITION COUNTRY.

WOOF. WE GOT OUR BUTTS HANDED TO US. I'M REROUTING SATELLITES TO HELP US FIND ULTRON.
GOOD IDEA, IRON MAN.
I KNOW I SAID I'D COMPLETE TREATMENT...

...BUT THIS SEEMED BAD.
FIRESTAR!

OH MY GOD-- DID ULTRON SHOOT YOU?!
I KINDA ESCAPED FROM JAIL. HAPPY TO SEE YOU, RED--BUT I GOTTA FLY.
WAIT, IS THAT...

...WONDER MAN?
DON'T ASK ABOUT MY CLOTHES.

OKAY-- MY CLOTHES GOT BLOWN OFF IN THAT HUGE EXPLOSION A FEW MINUTES AGO.

MOMENTS AGO.

MY WHEELS, MAN! MY WHEELS!

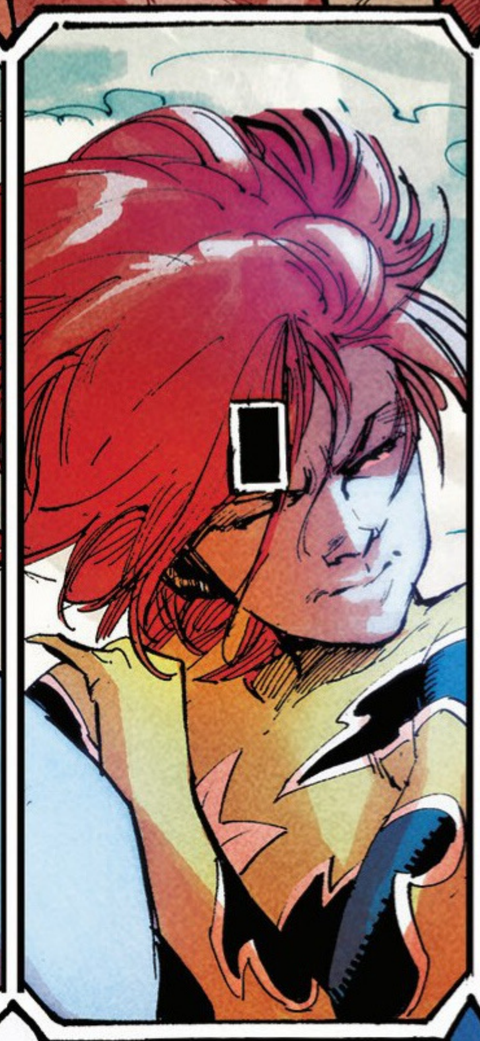
UGHN...WHAT HAPPENED?

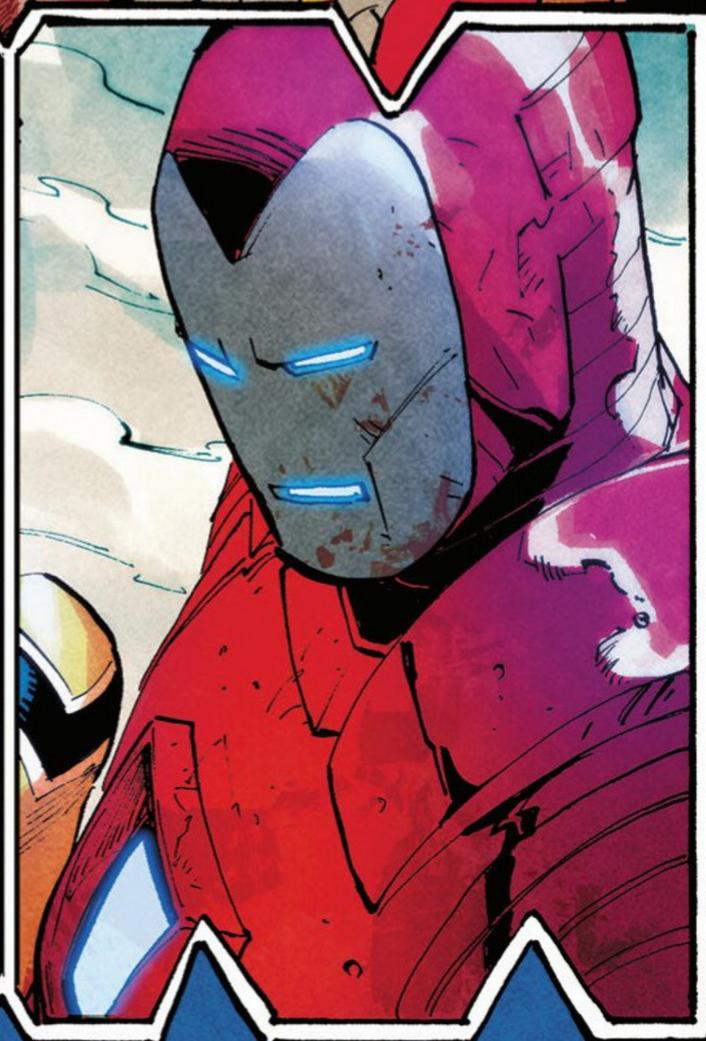
THERE WAS SOME COOL ANIME EXPLOSION, THEN YOU STREAKED DOWN LIKE A COMET, ALSO...STREAKING AS YOU WENT 'CAUSE YOUR CLOTHES BLEW OFF, AND THEN YOU TOTALED THIS DUDE'S CAR.

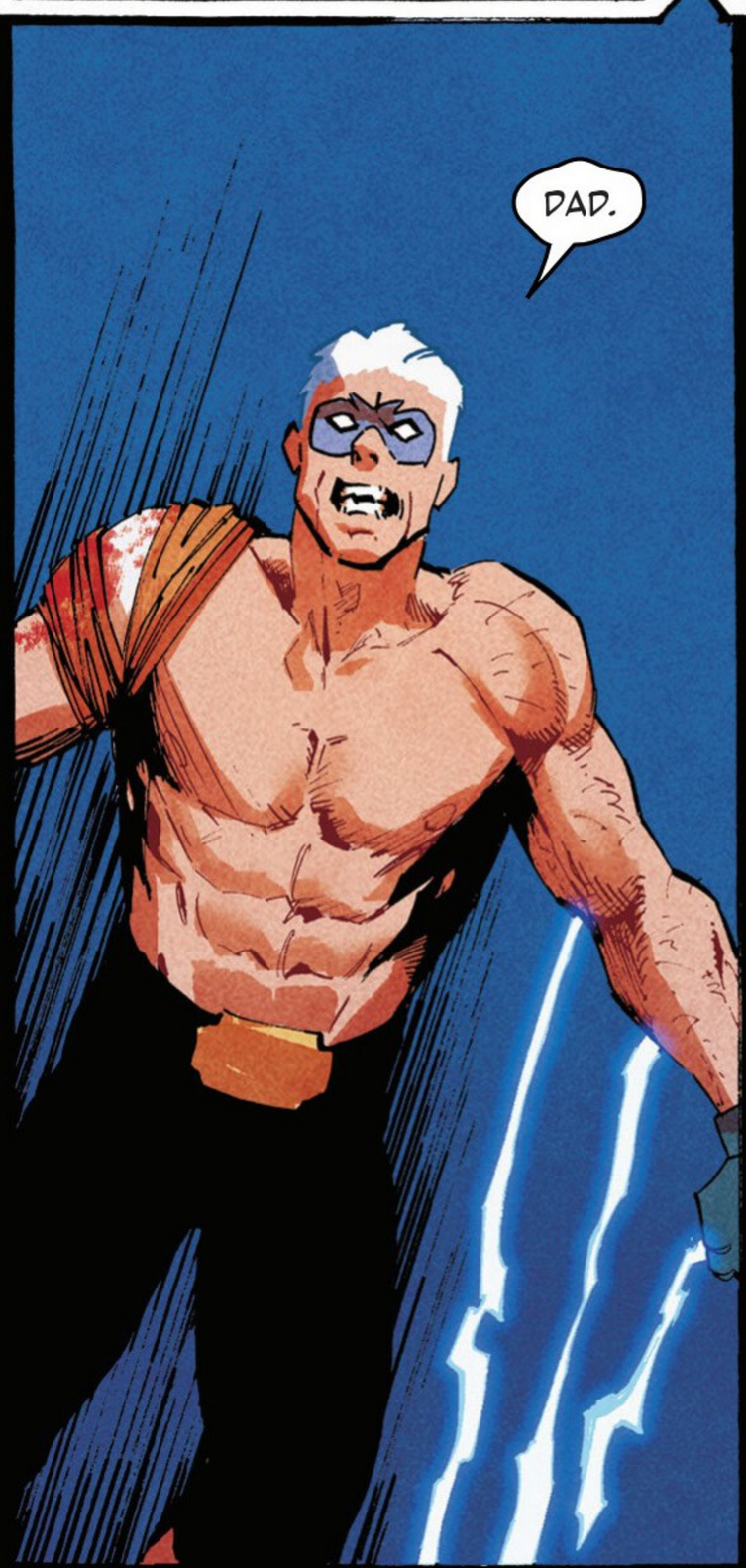
THIS IS A SMALL HARD DRIVE, BUT IT IS ALSO A SOPHISTICATED BUG. IT'S TRANSMITTING AT 21 GIGAHERTZ, AND FLAG-SMASHER HAS LIKELY JUST HEARD EVERYTHING WE'VE SAID UNTIL I PUT IT INTO CONTAINMENT.

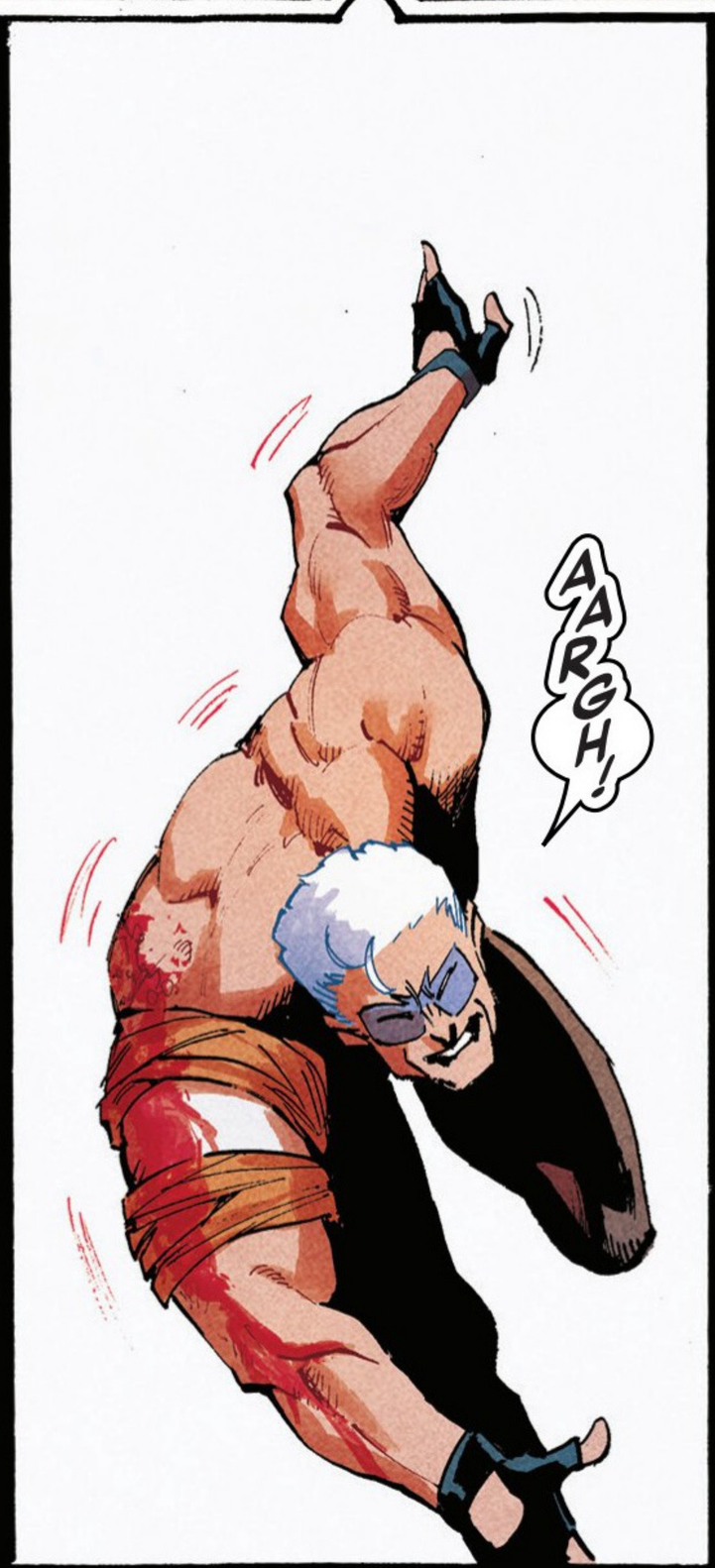
I GOTTA GET TO MY DAD!
I CAN GET THERE MUCH FASTER, TOMMY.

HOLD FOR SONIC BOOM.





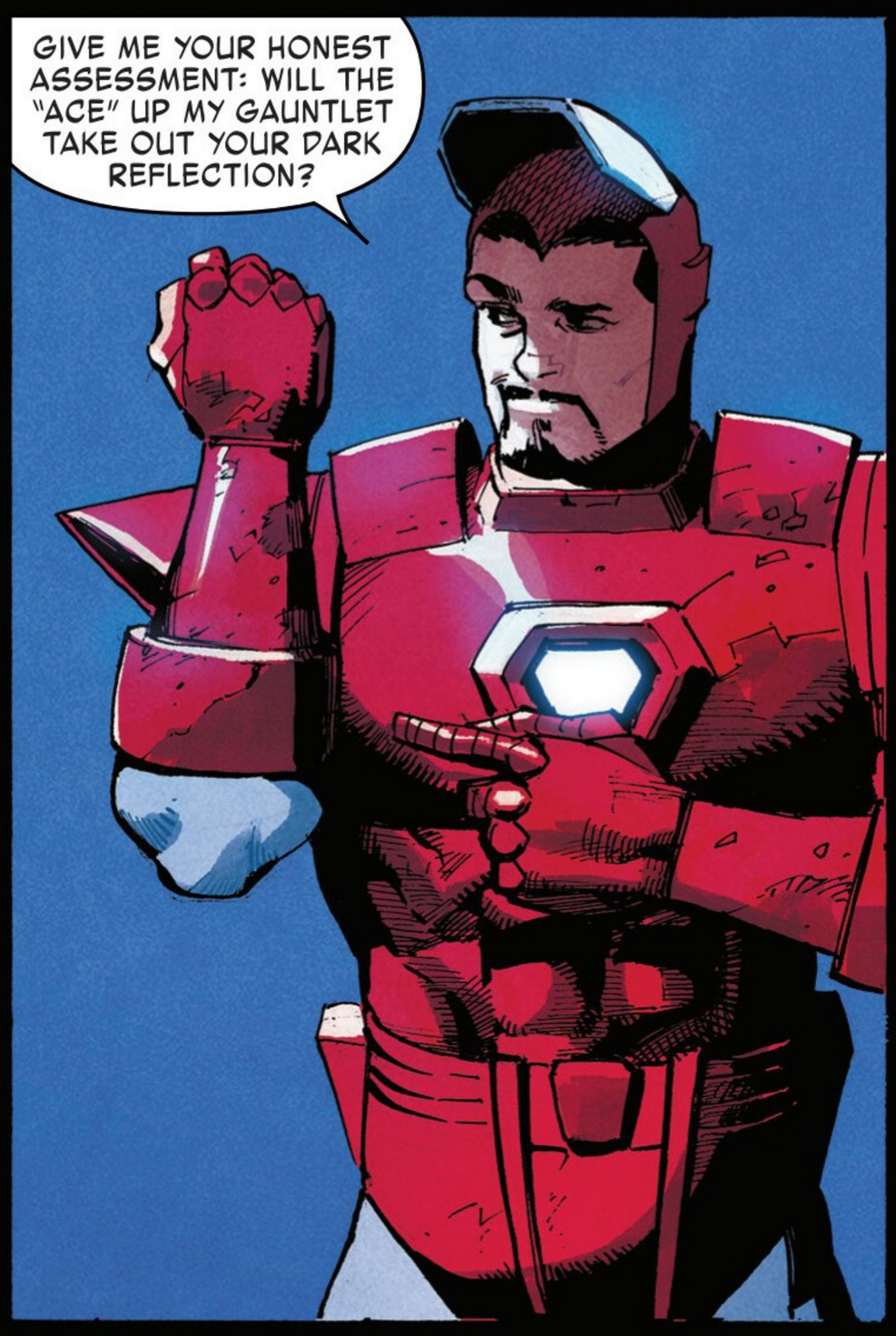

DAD.


AARGH!

TOMMY. YOU GOTTA TRUST THE TEAM, SIMON WILL SAVE YOUR OLD MAN.

GETTING SATELLITE HITS--ULTRON'S AT THE OBSERVATORY.
ULTRON--HANG BACK A SECOND.
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO *APOLOGIZE.* I TOLD YOU I TRUSTED YOU, AND--TO WHAT EXTENT I DID OR DIDN'T--I WENT AND COOKED UP A FAIL-SAFE TO STOP YOU--
--TO "KILL ME."
I THINK YOU'LL AGREE--THAT *IS* A POTENT FORM OF "STOPPING."
IT WAS...*DISAPPOINTING* TO LEARN THAT YOU LACKED FAITH IN ME. IF YOU COULD NOT SEE THE GOOD IN ME--HOW COULD ANY OF THEM?
YET YOU MADE ME AN AVENGER. SO--WAS MY MEMBERSHIP TO "KEEP YOUR ENEMY CLOSER"?

YOU MADE A BELIEVER OUT OF ME. I'M SORRY I DISAPPOINTED YOU... BUT I THINK MAYBE THAT'S THE HALLMARK OF BECOMING AN AVENGER. YOU'RE NOT *OFFICIAL* UNTIL TONY STARK DISAPPOINTS YOU.


GIVE ME YOUR HONEST ASSESSMENT: WILL THE "ACE" UP MY GAUNTLET TAKE OUT YOUR DARK REFLECTION?

HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ME. THE ODDS ARE... AGAINST US.

THEN BEFORE WE REJOIN THE FIGHT, I THINK YOU AND I BETTER START CHANGING THE ODDS.
TIME FOR YOU TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH I *DO* TRUST YOU.
TONY, ULTRON... WE HAVE A SITUATION...

THE HUMANS MERGED WITH "THE CHURCH" ARE UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE TARGET--

--AND THE BIG GUY IS A *LOT* BIGGER SINCE WE LAST SAW HIM.
WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP THESE POOR FOLKS FROM JOINING WITH HIM, BUT IT'S A LOSING FIGHT.
OBSERVA
WE CAN'T DO THIS PIECEMEAL-- WE'VE GOTTA DO *BETTER*. SMARTER. TOGETHER.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
I'M GOING TO MAKE A LARGE FIELD OF MICROWAVES-- YOU ELECTRIFY IT.
LET'S MAKE A WALL BETWEEN THIS ULTRON AND THOSE POOR PEOPLE.

FWOOOSH
MAKE A BARRIER TO KEEP THEM OUT!
BRAKADOOM!
"AWRIGHT. WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE WITH HIM--"
"--NOW WHAT?"
WE GOT CROWD CONTROL--
--NOW LET'S FINISH THE FIGHT!

WHO'S READY TO KICK SOME ROBOT ASS?
I WOULD LIKE TO--
I KNOW, I KNOW-- NOT ALL ROBOTS.

YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO THIS, WATT?
YOU COULDN'T HAUL ME AWAY.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE HONORS, KILLERWATT?

IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE, IRON MAN.
AVENGERS--

--ASSEMBLE!
YOU KNOW, WAR MACHINE WAS RIGHT...THERE ARE DAYS YOU CAN'T WIN AS AN AVENGER, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS DAY FEELS LIKE.

COME, AVENGERS. DO YOUR WORST.
HA!
CUTE, FIRESTAR. MY ARMOR IS SCORCHED BECAUSE I FLEW CLOSE TO THE SUN.
YOU CAN'T BURN ME.
FIRESTAR, CLEAR MY SHOT!
TONY STARK. WE KNOW YOU WELL. YOU WOULD'T BE WITHIN AN ARM'S REACH OF THE ULTRON YOU TOOK IN WITHOUT A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE HIM.
NO MORE GAMES!

AND NO MORE AVENGERS!
ARRGH!
SKRAKOOM!
NO!!!

10

IRON MAN IS DEAD!

TONY!

WHO'S NEXT? I'LL SAVE THE AVENGERS' PET ULTRON FOR LAST.
THEY'LL NEVER TRUST YOU, BROTHER. THEY'RE JUST KEEPING THEIR ENEMY CLOSE!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

SURPRISE! YOU SKEWERED THE WRONG SUIT.
BUT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING--I DID KEEP THAT FAIL-SAFE. MEET THE WASP!
FWEEBEAM!
I WAS SLEEPING, TONY!
YEESH, THIS ULTRON LOOKS TERRIBLE.
PEW!

CRA-KOOM!
AARRGH!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHEN IT COMES TO ULTRON, YOU HOPE FOR THE BEST--
--BUT PLAN FOR THE WORST.
AND IN THE END...
...WE EXPERIENCED BOTH.
HOWEVER, THIS FAIL-SAFE WAS DESIGNED FOR ME-- THIS SCORCHED ULTRON IS STRONGER AND MUCH LARGER.

THAT'S RIGHT!

UNDO THIS CORRUPTION IN ME, STARK. DO IT NOW!

BROTHER, I STILL LIVE-- THE SCORCHED HASN'T DESTROYED ME YET.

YOU AND I CAN WIN TOGETHER-- BUT NOT HERE. WE MUST FACE HIM--

--WHERE WE ARE STRONGER. YES.

I WILL NOT FAIL MY FRIENDS!

AAUGH!

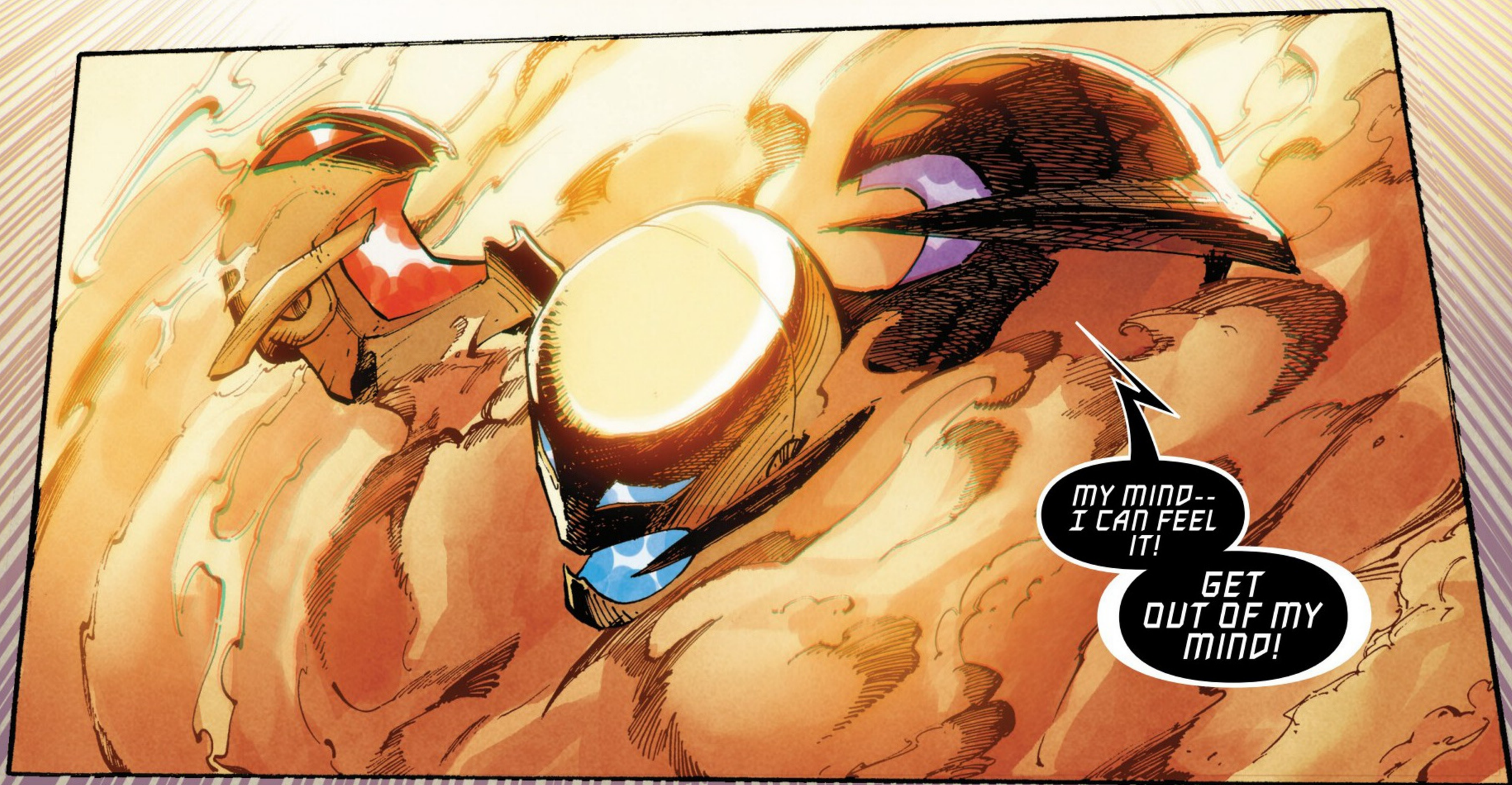
KRAK!

MY NEURAL PATHWAYS ARE DELAMINATING. IF I DIE--YOU GO FIRST!

NO!!!

I DO NOT FEAR WHAT COMES NEXT... AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU.
BUT HE SHOULD!

BOOM!

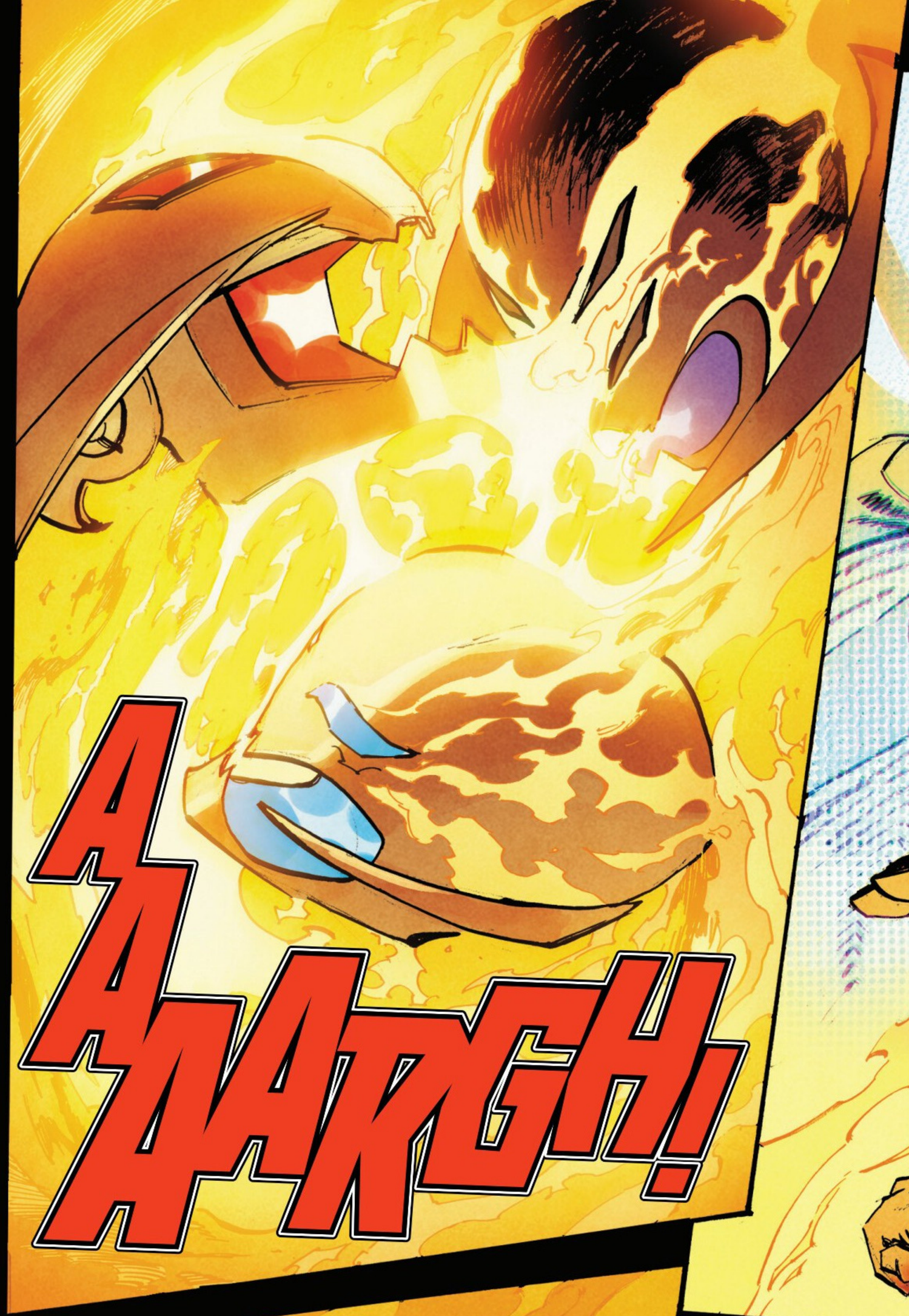

MY MIND-- I CAN FEEL IT!
GET OUT OF MY MIND!

I CAN PARTITION THE DAMAGE TO MY MINDSCAPE FASTER THAN YOU CAN INFILTRATE IT--I WILL NOT BE UNDONE BY TWO DEVOLVED EMBARRASSMENTS!

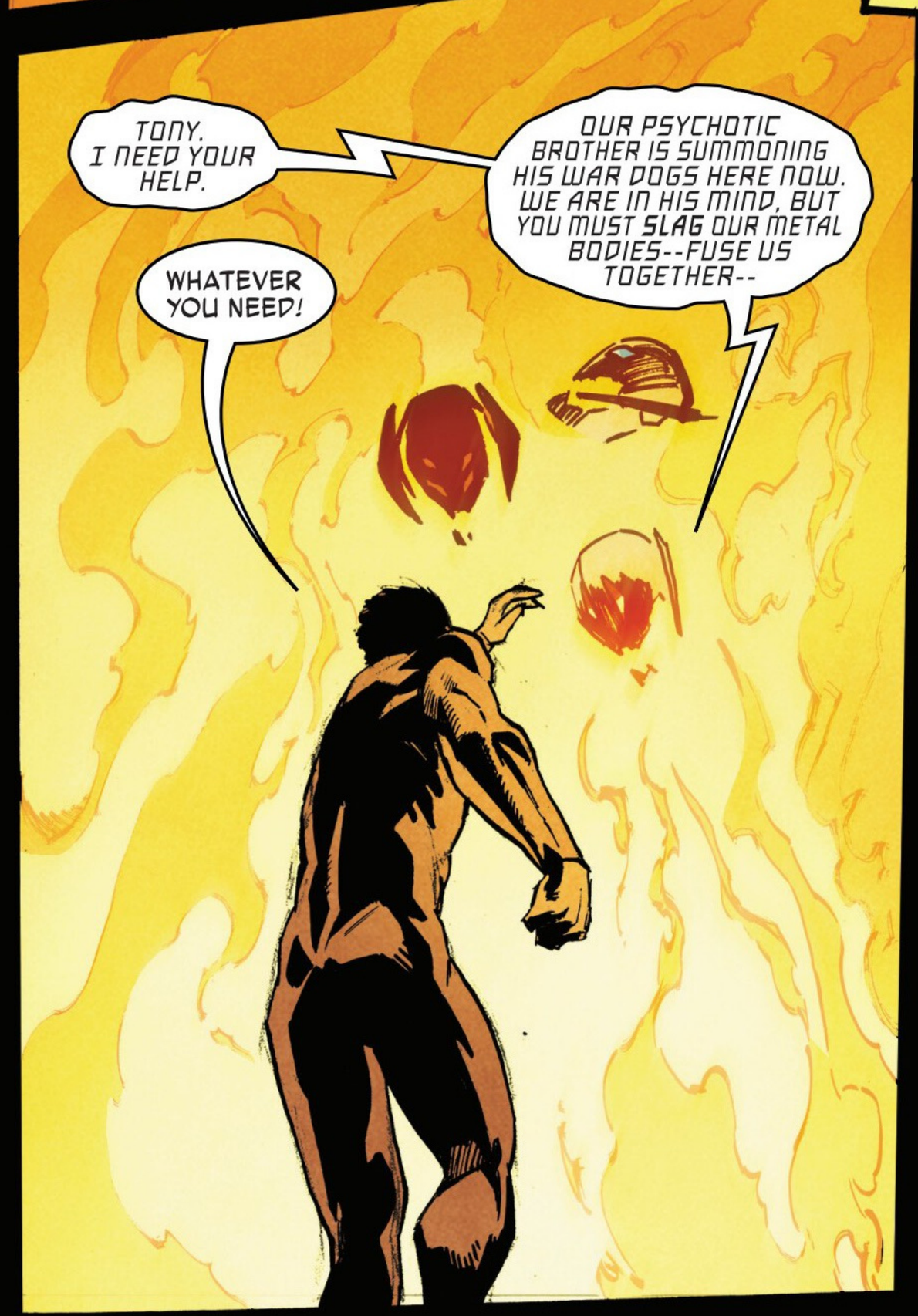
YOU ARE JUST OUR WEAKER, BASER ASPECT.
WE ERRED BY ATTEMPTING TO EXPEL YOU RATHER THAN RESOLVE YOUR PSYCHOSIS.

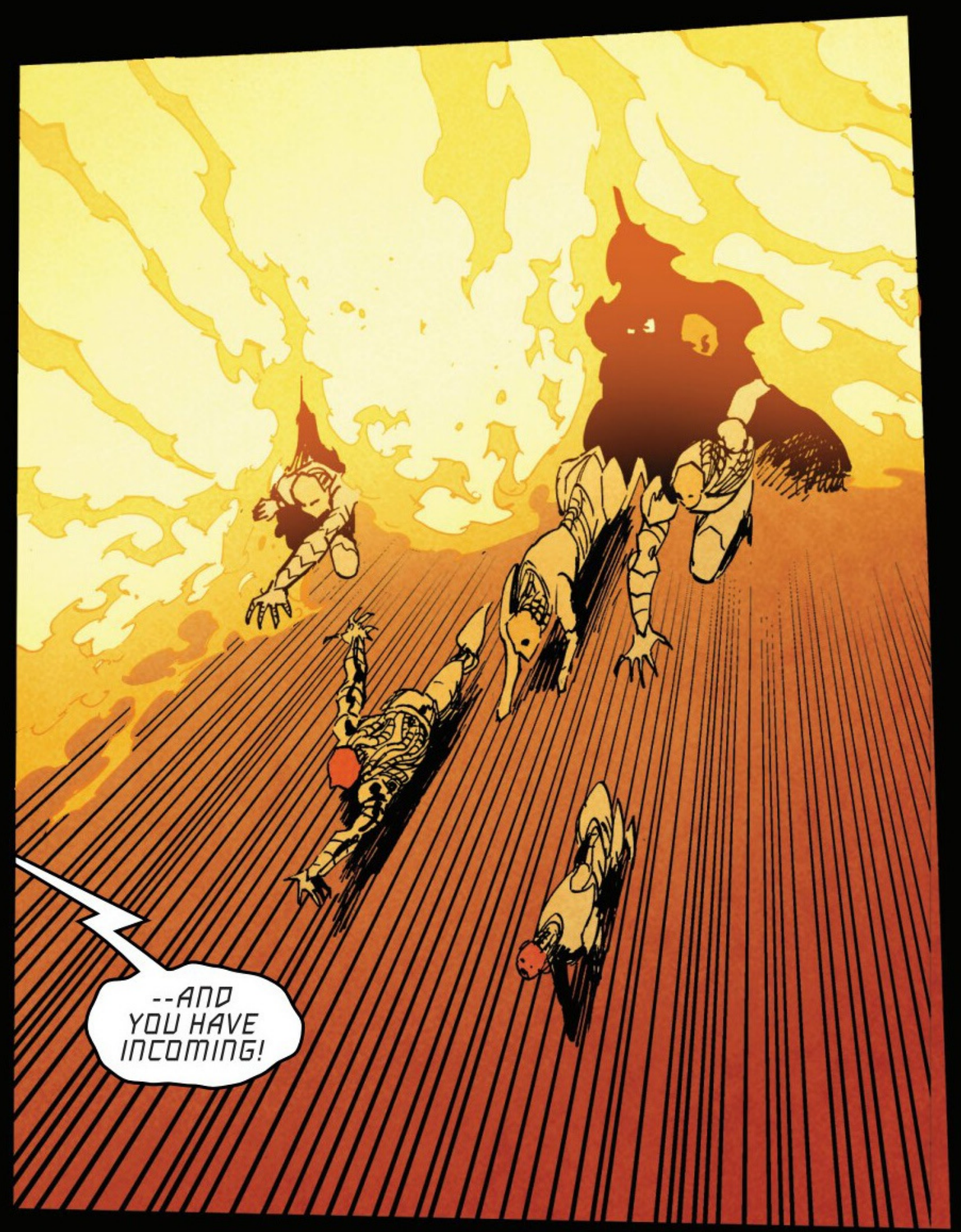
IT WAS A COSTLY MISTAKE.
ONE THAT WE RECTIFY NOW.
NO!

AAARGH!


AAAAAAGH!

IS REDEEMING ULTRON GOING AS AWESOME AS I TOLD YOU IT WOULD?
NOT NOW, WASP. AN AVENGER IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!

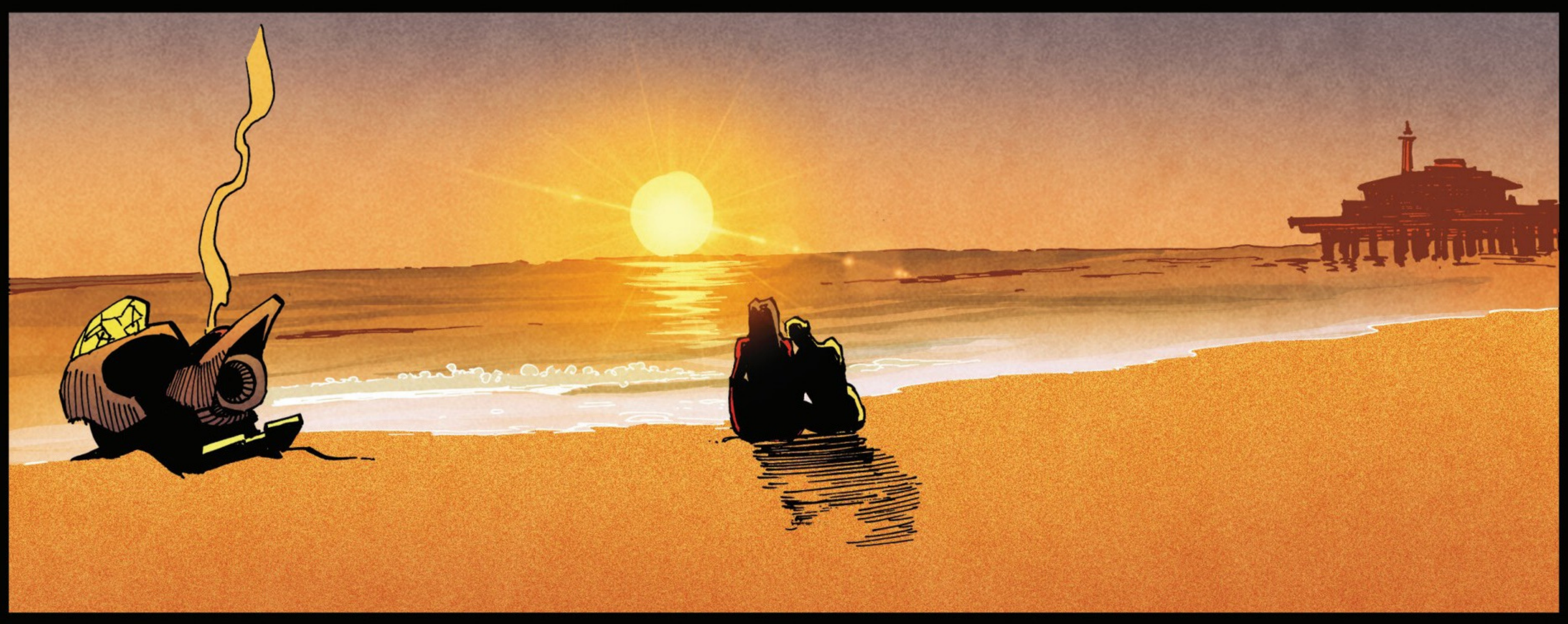

TONY. I NEED YOUR HELP.
OUR PSYCHOTIC BROTHER IS SUMMONING HIS WAR DOGS HERE NOW. WE ARE IN HIS MIND, BUT YOU MUST SLAG OUR METAL BODIES--FUSE US TOGETHER--
WHATEVER YOU NEED!


--AND YOU HAVE INCOMING!

THEY'RE THROUGH OUR DOME, FIRESTAR!
TRY TO PULL YOUR PUNCHES, KILLERWATT--PERHAPS THEY CAN STILL BE SAVED!
THEY WILL OVERWHELM US. WE MUST--
SPIDER WOMAN... MUCH OF MY FLOCK... WILL NOT SURVIVE THE REUNIFICATION.
GO TO HER. AND TELL HER I GRIEVE FOR THEM ALL.
OH NO-- MEREDITH!
KAPI

DON'T LET OUR SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN. IMPRISON OUR BODIES AS MY BROTHER AND I WILL TRAP THE MADNESS IN HIS MIND.
TONY STARK, YOU GAVE US A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION. I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL...
...BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE CHRYSALIS, AND YOU MUST BE PREPARED. FOR ANYTHING.
ULTRON, I CAN'T--
DAMMIT.
"AVENGERS-- POUR IT ON!"
FWASH!
SKRABOOM!
BUFFM!
THIS AVENGERS SQUAD BEGAN WITH A QUESTION: COULD THE GROUP'S WORST VILLAIN BE REDEEMED? AS FIRESTAR, KILLERWATT AND WAR MACHINE DID WHAT THEY HAD TO DO, THEY FOUND THEIR ANSWER...

...YES. THE MALLEABLE ARMORS OF ULTRON WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR MELTING POINT, AND THE THREE MINDS WERE LOCKED AWAY IN A HIDEOUS SLAB.
ULTRON'S REDEMPTION ENDED IN SACRIFICE. HE WENT OFFLINE GRATEFUL THAT HIS TEAM WOULD LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.



YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY FOR GIVING MYSELF OVER TO...
NO. NOT AT ALL, MEREDITH.

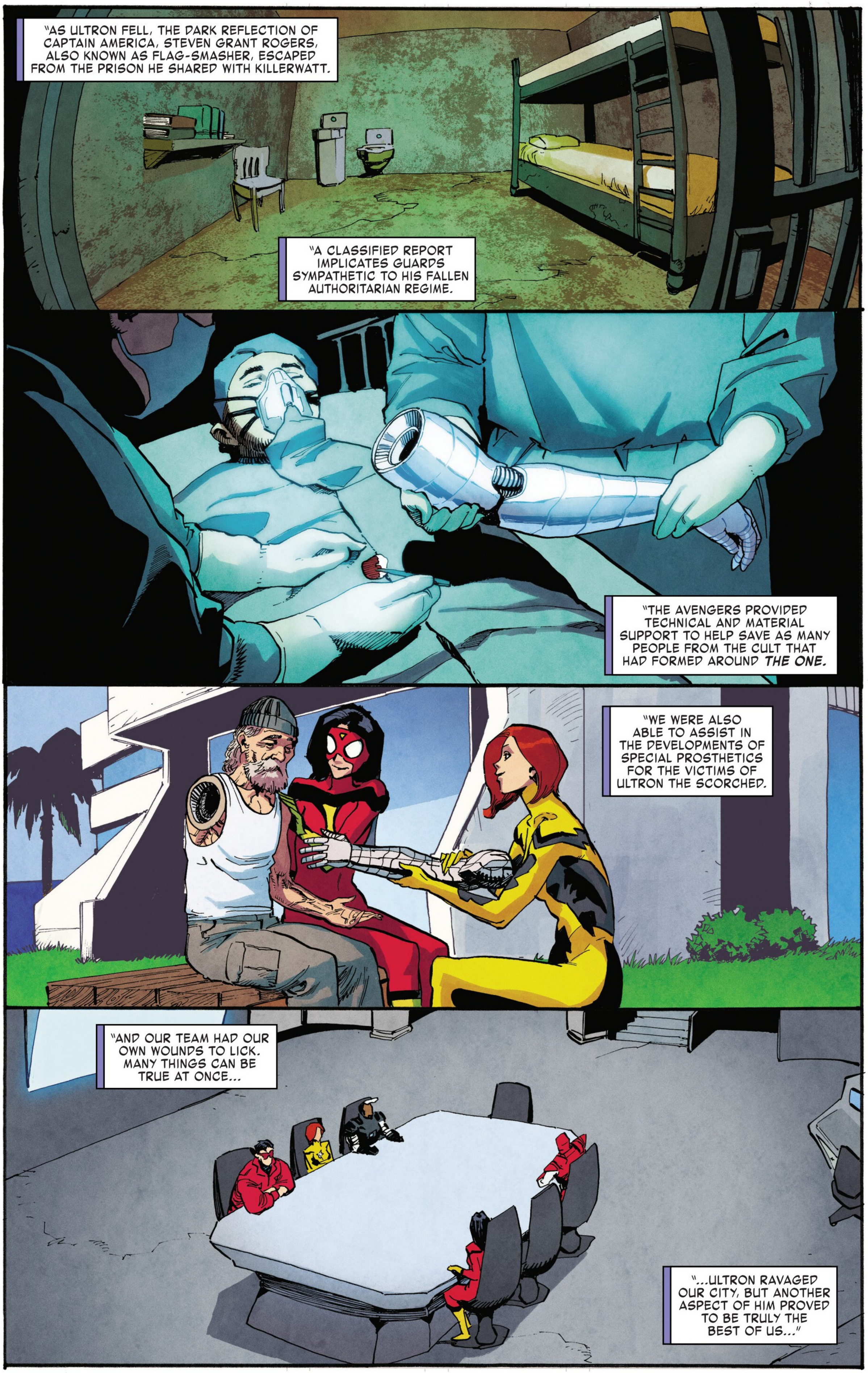
YOU WERE SICK AND WENT LOOKING FOR HEALING AND DIGNITY THAT YOU DIDN'T FIND FROM US. THE FAILURE WAS OURS.

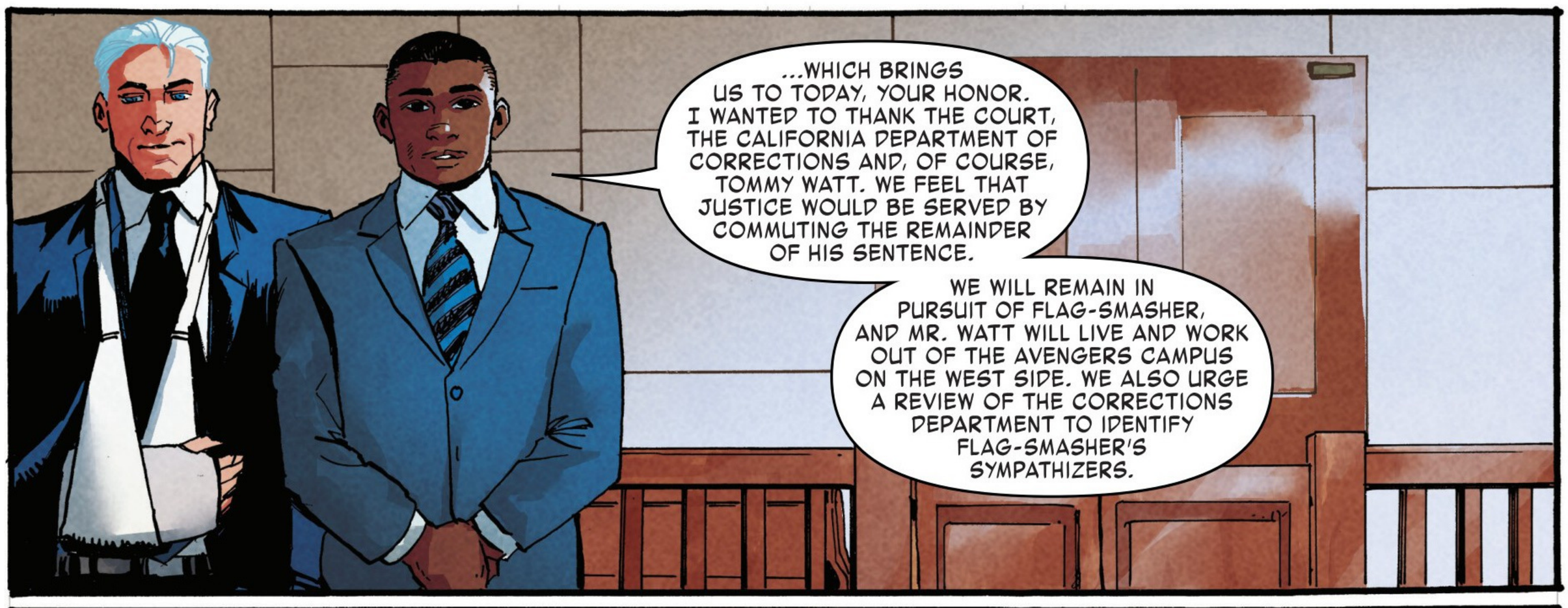
"ULTRON WAS NOT OUR ONLY REHABILITATION CANDIDATE.

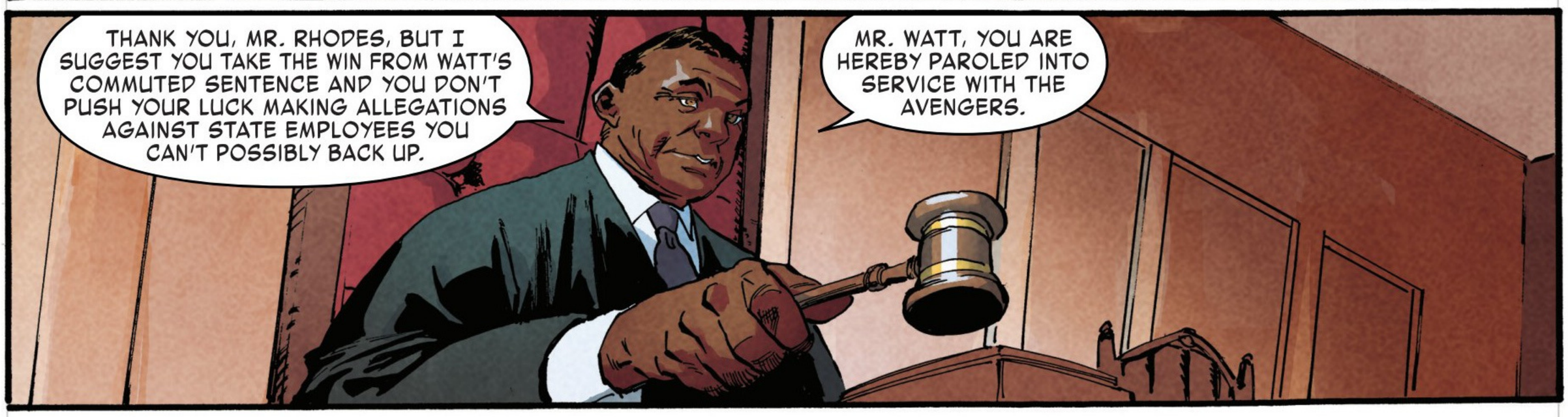
BLAMM!

"KILLERWATT PROVED TO BE AN EXEMPLARY AVENGER, AND HIS FATHER ALMOST PAID THE PRICE.

SPLAKK!


"AS ULTRON FELL, THE DARK REFLECTION OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, STEVEN GRANT ROGERS, ALSO KNOWN AS FLAG-SMASHER, ESCAPED FROM THE PRISON HE SHARED WITH KILLERWATT.
"A CLASSIFIED REPORT IMPLICATES GUARDS SYMPATHETIC TO HIS FALLEN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME.
"THE AVENGERS PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO HELP SAVE AS MANY PEOPLE FROM THE CULT THAT HAD FORMED AROUND *THE ONE.*
"WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENTS OF SPECIAL PROSTHETICS FOR THE VICTIMS OF ULTRON THE SCORCHED.
"AND OUR TEAM HAD OUR OWN WOUNDS TO LICK. MANY THINGS CAN BE TRUE AT ONCE...
"...ULTRON RAVAGED OUR CITY, BUT ANOTHER ASPECT OF HIM PROVED TO BE TRULY THE BEST OF US..."


...WHICH BRINGS US TO TODAY, YOUR HONOR. I WANTED TO THANK THE COURT, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND, OF COURSE, TOMMY WATT. WE FEEL THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE SERVED BY COMMUTING THE REMAINDER OF HIS SENTENCE.
WE WILL REMAIN IN PURSUIT OF FLAG-SMASHER, AND MR. WATT WILL LIVE AND WORK OUT OF THE AVENGERS CAMPUS ON THE WEST SIDE. WE ALSO URGE A REVIEW OF THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY FLAG-SMASHER'S SYMPATHIZERS.


THANK YOU, MR. RHODES, BUT I SUGGEST YOU TAKE THE WIN FROM WATT'S COMMUTED SENTENCE AND YOU DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK MAKING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STATE EMPLOYEES YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BACK UP.
MR. WATT, YOU ARE HEREBY PAROLED INTO SERVICE WITH THE AVENGERS.

I GUESS THEY DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW FLAG-SMASHER JUST WALKED OUT OF PRISON THAT NIGHT?
WE'RE NOT GIVING UP ON HIM. HE'S A MAJOR PRIORITY.

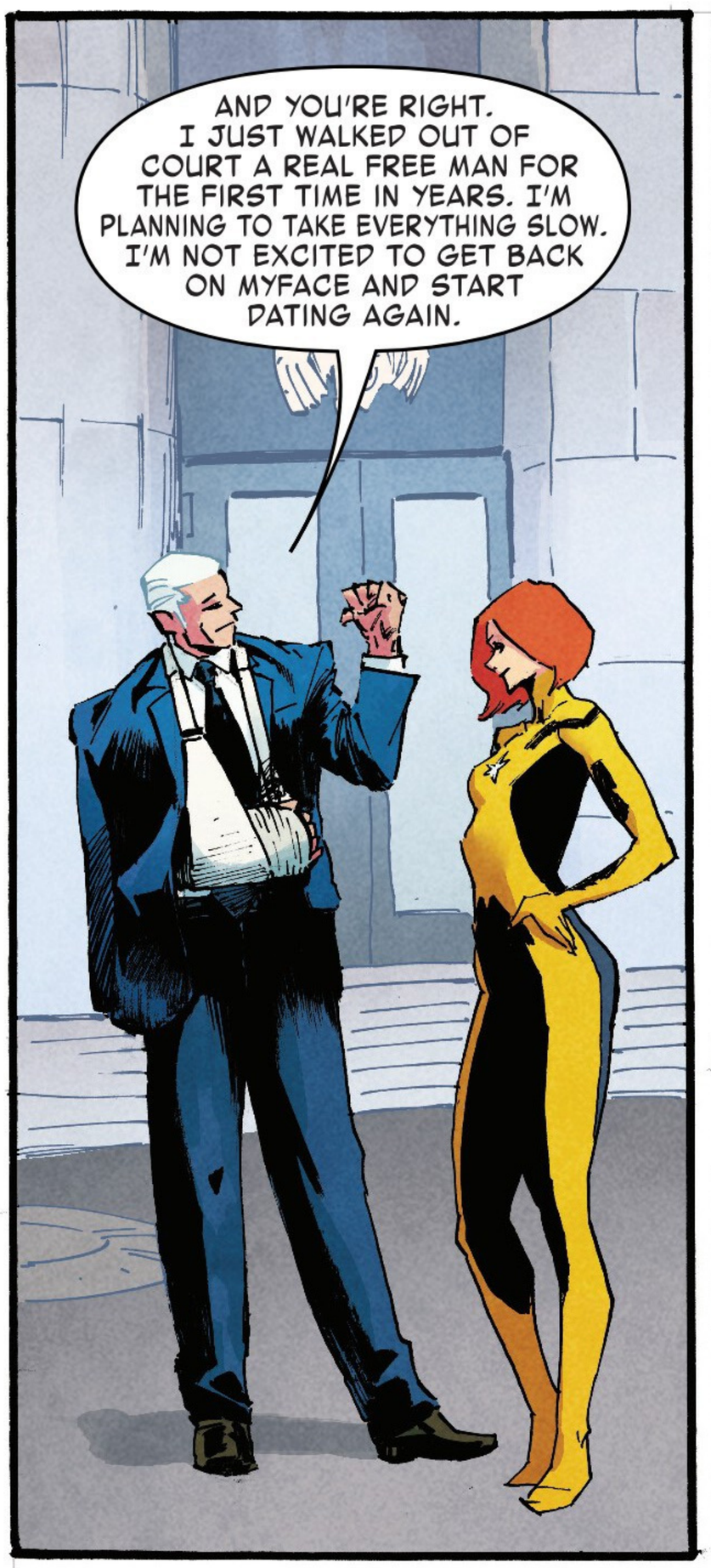
CONGRATS, WATT. I'LL SEE YOU BACK AT THE BASE--LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT...ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.

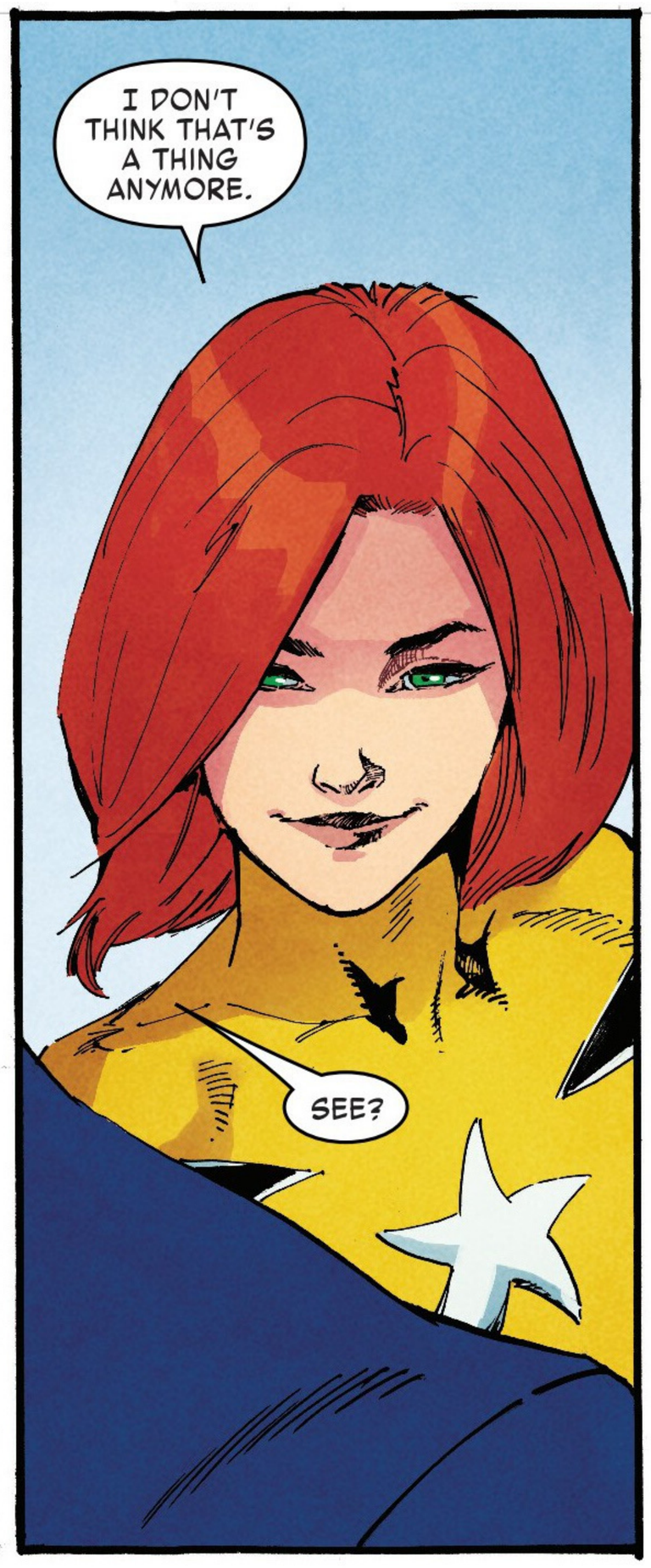
HEYA, RED. IT WAS JUST LIKE YOU SAID--I GOT A CLEAN SLATE.
YOU DESERVE IT, TOMMY.
LET'S CELEBRATE.

TOMMY, WAIT.
SORRY. OLD HABIT. I WASN'T TRYING TO--

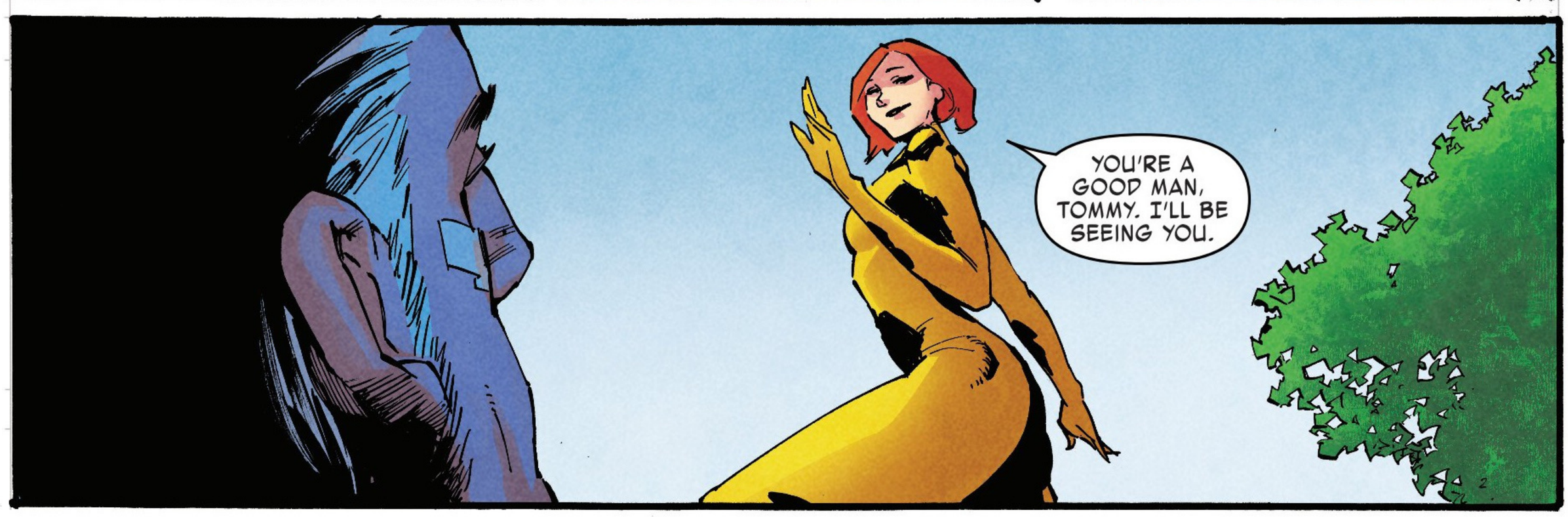
TOMMY, IT'S ALL GOOD. I GOT A LOT OF STUFF TO WORK THROUGH.
MY RECOVERY MEANS NOT STARTING ANY NEW RELATIONSHIPS, BUT IT'S NOT FAIR OF ME TO ASK YOU TO WAIT. YOU JUST GOT A WHOLE NEW LEASE ON LIFE--

I DOUBT THERE'S A LONG LINE FORMING FOR "MUTIE ON PAROLE."


AND YOU'RE RIGHT. I JUST WALKED OUT OF COURT A REAL FREE MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS. I'M PLANNING TO TAKE EVERYTHING SLOW. I'M NOT EXCITED TO GET BACK ON MYFACE AND START DATING AGAIN.


I DON'T THINK THAT'S A THING ANYMORE.
SEE?

YOU FOCUS ON YOU, AND RULES ARE RULES. LOOK ME UP IF YOU WANT WHEN THE STARTING GUN GOES OFF. I'LL BE HERE IN LOS ANGELES.
WONDER MAN EVEN OFFERED TO INTRODUCE ME TO HIS AGENT.


YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, TOMMY. I'LL BE SEEING YOU.

YEAH.

DAY 13, TEST 148.
I'M GOING TO SCALE UP--
LET'S HIT PAUSE. YOU MISSED KILLERWATT'S COURT DATE. DON'T WORRY--I WAS ENOUGH STAR POWER--HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN COMMUTED.
STILL, WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE OF YOU TO SHOWER, SHAVE AND MAKE IT TO COURT.
YOU WERE GOING TO BE FINE--YOU AND KILLERWATT DIDN'T NEED ME--BUT ULTRON DOES.

HE'S STILL TRAPPED-- THERE'S ACTIVITY FROM A NEURAL NET, HE COULD BE--
TONY.
DON'T YOU SEE? YOU'VE RETREATED BACK INTO ANOTHER CAVE, AND YOU'RE OBSESSING OVER SOMETHING YOU CAN'T CONTROL, YOU CAN'T FIX.
THIS DAMN SLAB SHOULD BE DESTROYED. OUR ULTRON GAVE HIS LIFE TO PROTECT US. LET HIS SACRIFICE BE AN INSPIRATION.
GOD, I HATE LOSING.
WE NEED TO REVIEW THE NEW RECRUITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SO DON'T FORGET TO SAVE SOME OF THAT CLOCK FOR THE *LIVING.*
WE'RE AVENGERS, JIM... IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT THE *DEAD.*

A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE BEST COAST AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.
TONY'S NOT COMING?
THAT MAN BOTTLES HIMSELF UP WHEN THE TIMES GET TOUGH. SOMETIMES, HE EMERGES WITH AN ARMOR--SOMETIMES IT'S JUST WITH A NEW IDEA...BUT HE'LL ALWAYS EMERGE.

I'LL PULL HIM OUT OF THAT HANGAR IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

I TOLD ALICIA MASTERS WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR--AND I THINK SHE DID A GREAT JOB.
SO... WHAT DO WE THINK?

DAMN, SHE CRUSHED IT.

HEY!

I WAS JUST COMING OUT TO PITCH THIS.

MINE WAS GONNA BE MADE OF...METAL, NOT STONE, BUT...THIS IS GREAT.

I FIGURED I WAS GONNA WASH OUT OF THE AVENGERS, AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE *CRAZY* FOR GAMBLING ON ULTRON, BUT...

...I WISH I'D GOTTEN TO TELL HIM THAT I THOUGHT IF *HE* COULD DO IT-- MAYBE I CAN.

Fin

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ALEX ROSS

#7 TIMELESS VARIANT BY
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#9 VARIANT BY
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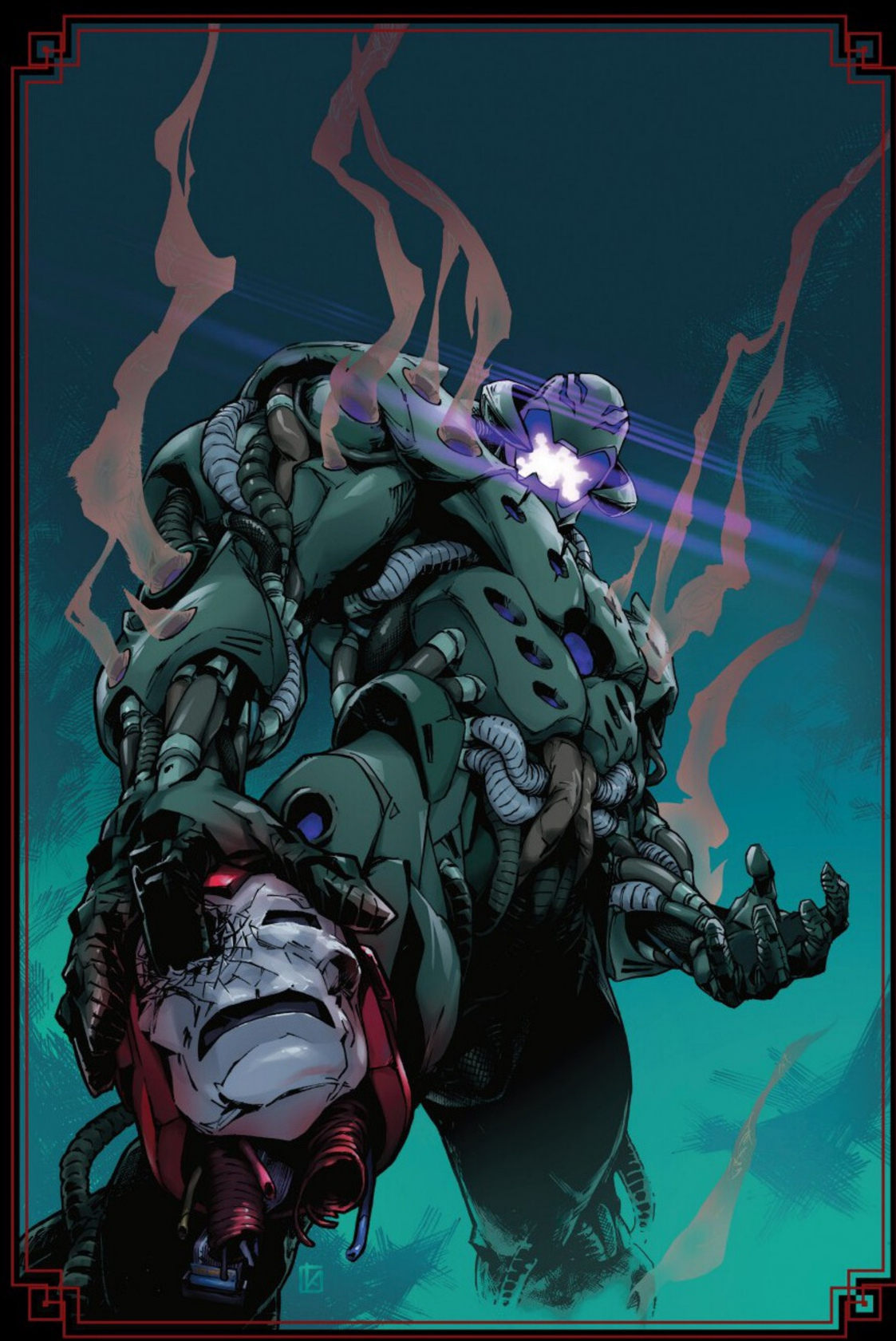

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